Mourning period declared

AMMAN — The Royal Court on Tuesday declared 40 days of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away at the age of 85. Condolences will be received for three days beginning Wednesday. Men can offer their condolences at the Raghadan Palace while women can do so at the Basman Palace, the Royal Court said. A register of condolences will be opened at the Royal Court after the three-day period and will remain open until the end of the 40-day mourning. The government will observe a seven-day mourning. The government also announced that Wednesday will be a public day of mourning and all government institutions, schools and universities will remain closed on the day.

Jorges An independent Arab political daily public as de Jorgan Press i oundation جوردان تليز بوميانسية نماد المطلقة الإردنية الراء،

Funeral arrangements announced

AMMAN — The body of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf will be laid to rest Wednesday noon at the Royal Cemetery after funeral prayers at the Royal Guards Mosque, the Royal Court announced. The Royal Court said mourners will include the Royal Court members, the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the speakers and members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials, heads of diplomatic missions and senior army officers. King Hussein, the Princes and the sharifs will accept condolences from officials after the funeral, which will be transmitted live by Jordan Television starting at 10 a.m.

Volume 18 Number 5598

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1994, THU AL QE'DEH 16, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan goes into mourning over passing of Queen Mother

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan went into mourning yesterday over the death of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away at a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland at the age of 85.

Slon grijoint hightiel to of ther ther room soon or to

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Sold in the state of the state

His Majesty King Hussein late last evening flew the plane carrying the body of the late Queen to an emotional reception attended by members of the Royal Family and senior government and army officials among other dignitaries.

King Hussein, who

was on a private visit to Britain where he underwent ear surgery, flew to Lausanne along with Her Majesty Queen Noor to bring the body home. Her Royal Highness Princess Basma had flown to Lausanne on Monday when the Queen Mother's condition deteriorated.

An honour guard carried the Queen's casket, which was draped with the Jordanian flag, as an army band played the funeral salute and flags flew at half mast.

King Hussein escorted the motorcade, which accompanied the ambulance that carried the body of the late Queen from the airport to Zahran Palace. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was in the ambulance that carried the body of the late Queen.

Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal and Prince Ali and other princes and princesses and members of the Royal Family were at the airport to receive the body of the Queen

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials were also at the Amman Civil Airport in Marks to receive the body of the late Ouem.

Is a cable to Prince Hassan, King Hussein mourned the Queen Mother as "a Muslim, faithful Hashemite," who was happy with her sons and daughter and family.

"Her soul joined the soul of our father King Talal," said the King. "Her memory will live in our souls for ever," said King Hussein, expressing faith in God's will. "She went into the mercy of God and to His heaven."

In a reply cable to King

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Her Majesty Queen Zein

The Queen Mother

who dedicated her life to her family and country. We extend our heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Basma and the Royal Hashemite Family.

May God bless her soul

Hussein, Prince Hassan conveyed his condolences and those of the Jordanian people to the King over the passing of the Queen Mother.

King Hussein announced a 40-day mourning period at the Royal Court and Prime Minister Majali said the Kingdom will observe an official mourning period of seven days during which flags will be at half mast. The Kingdom will today observe a public day of

mourning.
In a letter to the King,
Dr. Majali said the Queen
Mother died after a life full
of dedication and generos-

ty.

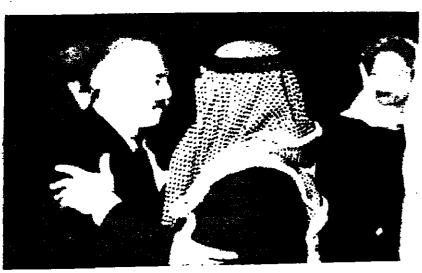
The speakers of Parliament, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other senior officials sent letters of condolences to the King, expressing their grief over the late Queen whom they described as a mother to all Jordanians.

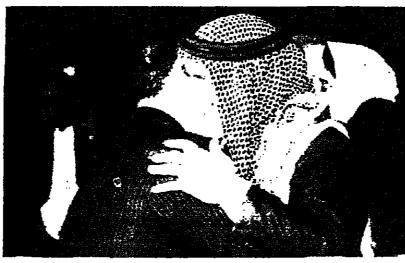
King Hussein received cables of condolences from heads of state of Arab and Muslim countries. Cables were sent by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Ai Assad, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, Pakistani President Farouk Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ai Bashir.



His Majesty King Hussein kisses the hand of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, upon his return from the U.S. after successful surgery on Sept. 24, 1992 (file photo)

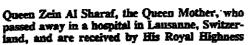








Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma arrive home on Tuesday with the body of Her Majesty





Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other members of the Royal Family (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Queen Zein leaves her mark

QUEEN Zein Al Sharaf was born on Aug. 2, 1908. She was married to King Talai Ben Abdullah in 1934 and was the mother of three sons and one daughter: His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Prince Hassan and Princess Basma. Then-Crown Prince Talal and Princess Zein were involved in the early development of Jordan under the leadership of the late-King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

Hussein.
The Queen Mother played a key role in the political development of the Kingdom in the early 1950s, in the writing of the 1952 Constitution and in social de-

velopment in the country. Queen Zein filled a constitutional vacuum after the assassination of King Abdullah in 1951 while the newly proclaimed King Talal was being treated in Switzerland and later in the period between August 1952 when King Hussein was proclaimed Monarch and in 1953 when he assumed his constitutional duties at the age of 18, during which a regency council was entrusted to run the affairs of the state.

The Queen's influence in the writing of the 1952 Constitution ensured that it gave full rights to women. The late Queen has been the symbol of motherhood, self-lessly dedicating her entire life to her children and

The Queen Mother led the way for the creation of the first women's union in Jordan in 1944 and was its president.

She was also instrumental in establishing the women's branch of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in 1948 and dedicated time and effort to the Um Al Husseln Orphanage in Am-

Queen Zein contributed much to social and humanitarian services in the Kingdom and gave particular attention to the nation's charitable organisations and voluntary institutions.



Gaza, population almost one

million, has never had a tourist

industry, unless you count

armies stopping on their way to

attack Egypt or the Holy Land.

after his fatal attraction to De-

lilah, a conniving Philistine

seductress who robbed him of

Napoleon is reputed to have

spent three nights in Gaza City

during his unsuccessful cam-

paign to win the Middle East

About 3,500 British and

other allies soldiers were killed

in Gaza in the two world wars.

A rutted road lined with car

repair shops leads to the Gaza

war cemetery, the only well-tended public space on the

Every blade of grass is cut,

and every tombstone sur-rounded by flowers. Ibrahim

Jeradeh, the gardener who has

maintained the graveyard for

35 years, was honoured last

occupied. Part of the Ottoman

empire for several centuries

before World War I, it was

under British mandate until

1948, when Egypt took over.

Israel's occupation started after 1967 Middle East war.

Tourism will be a responsi-

"Confederation does not

mean unity," he said.
"Problems (in the region)

will keep going. In this situa-tion it is difficult for small

states to exist, and we must do

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a 12-

year-old economic and military

alliance of six-thinly-populated but economically important

But the GCC, which also includes the United Arab Emi-rates, Oman,, Qatar and Bahrain, has had limited suc-

cess in resolving regional dis-

putes or border rows between

its members or in building a

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al

Shaheen said in a speech ear-

lier this month a confederation

or a "merger" might be a viable option for any two GCC

states wanting to boost secur-

the Islamic Constitutional

Movement, Kuwait's version

of the Muslim Brotherhood

chairs a parliamentary commit-

tee that works for the return of

Mr. Duwailah, a member of

common defence force.

something for our future."

bility of the future Palestinian

Gaza has almost always been

month by Queen Elizabeth.

his strength.

from the British.

Samson met his death here

Gazans know more of misery than history

autonomy government in Gaza and the West Bank; town of

Jericho, expected to take con-

trol next month. Palestinians

have formed a tourism com-

mittee in Jerusalem, but it is

Committee members say

basic problems must be solved

first - like getting hundreds of

thousands of residents out of

cramped refugee hovels, re-

paving roads, and building a

Archaeological digs could run into problems with a cash-

starved population that knows

more about misery than his-

"We're afraid that once

we've convinced the people of

the importance of these places,

they will plunder them," said

Mohammad Sadeq, a Palesti-

at least 67 historic sites in Gaza, including 15 ancient

buildings, a Greek Orthodox church dating to 425, an 8th

century mosque, two Turkish baths and dozens of Ottoman

All are in an advanced state

of decay. Political graffiti obse-cures the crumbling walls of

the church and mosques. The

tiny gold bazaar stinks. A T-

shirt vendor's wares cover the small domed building known

NICOSIA (AP) — Ali Akbar

Saidi-Sirjanì, a dissident Ira-

nian writer arrested last

charges ranging from sodomy to links with "anti-revolution-

ary elements" abroad, an Ira-

nian intelligence ministry offi-

Musavi Nejad, director

general for national security at

Iran's intelligence ministry,

told reporters in Tehran Sun-

day that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani had

been arrested along with an

"accomplice," whom he identi-

He said: "Both of them have

Mr. Nejad, whose comments

were carried Monday by the

state-run Islamic Republic

News Agency (IRNA), said

Mr. Saidi-Sirjani and Mr. Niazi

also confessed to drug-related

charges and admitted involve-

ment with the Savak, the secret

police of the late Shah Moham-

mad Reza Pahlavi; who was

ousted by the 1979 Islamic

He said the two men had

Shortly after his disappear-

ance, an Iranian newspaper

reported that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani

revolution.

received "suostai

of foreign funds."

fied as Niazi Kermani.

confessed to their acts."

cial has said.

month, was being held on .

Detained Iranian writer

said to have 'confessed'

Archaeologists say there are

nian archaeologist.

not a high priority.

sewage system.

Other obstacles to tourism

include no airport, no tourist

buses, no car rental agencies,

no guide books, no brochures

no postcards, no movie

theatres and not much shop-

Muslim fundamentalists

banned women from swim-

ming in bathing suits in 1978.

and closed the last restaurant

serving liquor 10 years later.

strip is issued by the U.N.

Relief and Works Agency to

help drivers weave through an

explosive mix of 19 Jewish

settlements and eight Palesti-

nian refugee camps.

At their most optimistic,

economists think it will be at

least five years before Gaza

attracts even the most intrepid

But aspiring tourism mag-

With the approval of Islamic

activists, Mr. Abu Haseera

obtained a municipal liquor

license for non-Muslim tip-plers, found belly-dancers to

perform at his restaurant, and

contracted two Chinese con-

ples to serve in Gaza's first

"With peace everything is

possible," he said. "Tourists,

beer, belly-dancers and

cided with a mounting cam-paign against opponents, at a

time when the regime is getting

increasingly nervous with a

string of bomb attacks and

assassination attempts against

Last Friday, a lone gunman

shot and wounded Abaie

Khorassani, a clergyman in the eastern city of Mashhad.

based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq,

the largest Iranian opposition

Last month, the New York-

based human rights organisa-tion, Human Rights Watch, appealed to Iranian Interior

Minister Ali Mohammad

Besharatii to investigate Mr.

It said in a letter to Mr.

Besharati that Mr. Saidi-Sir-

jani was picked up from his

Tehran home by the anti-vice

squad after his wife was shown

a blank arrest warrant and given no information about the

reason for her husband's

a little-known poet and an

associate of Mr. Saidi-Sirjani

who had met the writer on the

day of his disappearance, may

Human Rights Watch said it

group, for the attack.

Saidi-Siriani's case.

Mr. Nejad blamed the Iraq-

the ruling clerics.

nates are unfazed.

ethnic restaurant.

The only map used in the

TO dov Jap Mo vot moj

By Donna Abu Nasr

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza

Strip — To most people,

Gaza's waterfront is a squalid

tableau of refugee camps, open sewers and veiled woman rid-

ing donkey carts. But Said Abu

Haseera pictures beer-

guzzling, sun-tan oiled tourists

cramming beaches or strolling

cohorts figure blue skies, blue

sea, and the footprints of his-

tory are the makings of a tour-

ism bonanza once Palestinian

self-rule cures Gaza's more ob-

Other Gazans wonder what

could lure visitors to a place

once dubbed 'Hell's Riviera,"

with not a tourist draw to its

I can't decide where because I

really don't know where the

historic ruins are," said businessman Nawaf Abdallah.

About the only well-

reserved historic site in Gaza

s a World War I-era foreign

cemetery. Archaeologists can-

not even agree on whether

Biblical body builder Samson

was buried here after bringing

a temple down on his head.

And the prevalent local

celebration is a memorial ser-

vice for someone slain in

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti

member of parliament (MP)

said on Monday the emirate

should consider forging com-

mon foreign, defence and oil

policies with neighbour Saudi

specific fields, in oil policy, in

defence — one army, or at

least one army leadership — and in foreign policy," Islamist MP Mubarak Al Duwailah said

in an interview with Reuters.

because we should be part of a

big country," the opposition politician said. "Our friends

are the same as the Saudis'

friends. Their friends are our

mer occupier Iraq sometimes

privately discuss strengthening

links with large neighbour

Saudi Arabia, their chief Arab

ally during Baghdad's 1990-91

occupation, as a possible secur-

ity option. Few mention the

not suggesting political union,

an idea that would be as con-

tentions in the Gulf oil-export-

ing emirate of 1.5 million peo-

ple as in any other country.

dination and cooperation in

But he said increased coor-

plant in Syria with the backing

of some major U.S. com-

panies, despite failing at smal-

Elie Mouakad had sought

permission from Syria to build

a Disney-style theme park but

found the Damascus govern-

ment was more interested in an

industrial plant, the Business

Journal weekly said. Mr. Mouakad hopes the fer-

tiliser plant will bring up to \$75

ler ventures in Oregon.

Mr. Duwailah said he was

ibility publicly.

Kuwaitis nervous about for-

"In this case we should gain

"Let's talk about unity in

Kuwaitis urged to study

Saudi security links

"I'd like to build a hotel, but

He and a small band of

by Samson's tomb.

tor mai рег ate

million in contracts to Oregon companies, improve U.S.-Syrian relations and pave the way for his proposed Damascus Magic World Park. But some who have worked with him are sceptical and say the plan may be just another.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

man now seeking the Republican nomination for governor.

Mouakad is chairman,

man," Mr. Smith said. But he added: "I haven't seen any money made yet."

saw of their money.

harassment lawsnits.

Ms. Hoel also worked as an office manager for Mr. Mouakad but was never paid for a year's work, except for two \$500 expense · cheques,

"He was going to pay me \$1,500 a month," Ms. Hoel said. "I never saw it." Mr. Mouakad formed his

American Corporation, with cash from the 1980 sale of a Portland convenience store he and his wife had bought with

a couple of years later, and the Mr. Mouakads' home fell into foreclosure. They later di-Makad officials disclosed the

\$1.1 million purchase of an apartment complex in 1992. Sources familiar with the deal said Mr. Mouakad overpaid for the apartments, which fell into foreclosure last year, the Business Journal said. Mr. Mouakad also has prop-

Palestinian collaborators prepare to move to Israel

FAHMA, occupied West Bank (R) — Palestinian collaborators living in this povertystricken village say dozens of them received Israeli identity cards this month and are preparing to move to Israel when Palestinian self-rule starts.

They confirmed Israeli press reports that Israel was planning to protect Palestinians who spied for its security forces by allowing them to move to Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) refused to guarantee their safety under self-rule.

Israel built up huge spy networks in the occupied territories to break the Palestinian uprising. Hundreds of them ive in isolated villages under Israeli protection, but many more suspected collaborators still live among the Arab

population. The Israeli human rights group Betselem says between 700-900 Palestinians accused of collaborating have been killed by their own people since the Palestinian uprising against Israel erupted in 1987.

Suspicious of outsiders and armed to the teeth, most of the collaborators of Fahma said they had happily taken up an offer by Israel's intelligence agencies of a new life in Israel.

'I'm an Israeli, not a Palestinian since Israel has welcomed me and my family," said Sati Sharqawi, 27. "We will all be loyal soldiers for Israel. My people oppressed me. I was not born a spy, they made me into one."

Mr. Sharqawi, originally from the town of Jenin, said he was recruited to work for Israel while serving an eight-year jail sentence for activities as a sup-porter of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction.

He said six of his family had been forced to leave their homes when it became known he was a collaborator. Israel had also agreed to allow them and their families to move, he said.

Residents said the whole village of about 250 people was expected to decamp to live in Israel. Twenty-nine collaborators and their families had so far got papers to move to Israel and the remaining 53 families were expected to get them

Nafie Jabr, 30, said he would move as soon as a Palestinian self-rule authority arrived in Gaza and Jericho. Israeli and PLO negotiators are trying to wrap up an agreement in Cairo now and self-rule could start within a few weeks.

"I don't think the authority can control the behaviour of the Palestinian street, which has never known any discipline. We cannot just sit quiet when they want to kill us," he

He said Israeli authorities had asked them where they would like to live and work inside the Jewish state. Small communities of Palestinian collaborators already live near Tel

The settlement they now live in is a run-down army camp. Just opposite the entrance, an Israeli army post monitors the main road.

Most houses are one or tworoom concrete bungalows with sparse furnishings. There is no telephone, and electricity is often cut off. A school on site makes sure children do not have to leave the camp, cutting contact with the surrounding Palestinian population to a

Collaborators rarely leave home without at least a pistol and some of them have semiautomatic rifles.

Israel has several times pressed the PLO to pardon collaborators but the PLO has so far refused. Israeli reports on Monday said collaborators in a village in Gaza had also been given Israeli identity cards and can move inside Israel.

The two main Palestinian factions, Fateh and Hamas, last week announced a month's moratorium on the killing of collaborators. But such hills are short-lived and dozens of suspected collaborators are tortured and killed every year.

CIA fears Islamic

takeover of Egypt

The Sunday Times ... AMERICAN intelligence officials believe the danger of damentalists is increasing

rapidly. A senior State Department official said last week the country was "only one bullet away from anarchy and revolution" a reference to the vulnerability of President Hosni Mubarak to assassination.

The latest American intelligence assessment was prepared by the CIA in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, when a Jewish settler killed 30 Arabs in a mosque on the Israelioccupied West Bank in February. The study says the massacre and increasing tension in Israel have fuelled the fun-damentalist fire in Egypt.

"There has been a huge increase in the number of subvesives and recruits that have been rallying to the cause," said an administration official. Earlier this month a bomb

was thrown at a car carrying General Rauf Khayrat, the second-in-command of the state security services, who was killed. Khayrat was one of the officials leading the hunt for Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, the Islamic Group which claimed responsibility for the bombing. Last week, it killed a senior officer in Assyut, the southern city at the centre of the revolt. The militants have killed 360

people, including 132 policemen, since they declared war on the government in March 1992. They have also killed eight tourists, sufficient to worsen already serious econo-

Some officials fear that Egypt will fall in a line of dominoes triggered by Algeria, where the military government is trying by both force and negotiation to stave off an Islamic revolution. Analysts lend to agree that the Egyptian goverament has not responded adequately to its crisis. It has cracked down in huge sweeps through areas where militants are believed to live and many alleged terrorists have been killed. There have also been widespread allegations of the

However, Mnbarak's close advisers, who see their own power being weakened by the fundamentalists, have advised him to adopt an even tougher policy. He has dismissed the terrorists as troublemakers who have no support within

routine use of torture.

Some Western diplomats artige that the terrorists are successfully exploiting deep social divisions and have highlighted the corruption of senior officials. They argue that Mubarak has done nothing to tackle the social ills that give the terrorists some credibility and that unless he does so, he will fall.

ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

ARRIVALS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada wants to sell Kuwait warships

KUWAIT (AP) - Canada wants to sell naval vessels and light armoured vehicles to Kuwait, Ottawa's international trade minister said Monday. "We have an interest in providing naval vessels to the Kuwaiti navy," Roy MacLaren told reporters after meetings with Kuwait's emire, crown prince and our ministers. Mr. MacLaren arrived Sunday night on a brief visit seeking to improve commercial cooperation with Kuwait. He left for Saudi Arabia Monday night. Mr. MacLaren said the vessels were "medium to smaller sized types," but gave no other details. He said Canada wants to act as subcontractor to Britain's GKN military equipment manufacturer in solling light armoured vehicles to the emirate. Kuwait, which is still rebuilding its military after it was crushed during Iraq's August 1990 invasion, is buying more than 200 warrior armoured fighting vehicles built by GKN. The Warrior made its combat debut during the 1991 Gulf war. But the army is believed to be still seeking to acquire some 100 light armoured vehicles.

Lebanon unions postpone banned protest

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon's General Labour Confederation (CGTL) backed down in a war of wills with the government and postponed indefinitely a banned demonstration on Tuesday, labour officials said. The CGTL said in a statement shortly after midnight the decision to postpone the march on government headquarters was made to avoid "a bloody suppression operation." As the CGTL met, top security officials were having talks with Interior Minister Bechara: Merhej on measures to stop the demonstration. Beirat newspapers said Mr. Merhej contacted the CGTL and threatened to impose a curfew on Tuesday if it insisted on. going ahead with the march. The postponement appeared to be a victory for a government getting tough on law-and-order. The CGTL called the protest after saying the government backtracked on a pay pact last December. The government, which is trying to restore stability after 15 years of civil war, has refused to authorise street protests for the past 10 months.

Irish defence minister visits Tehran

By Ran

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NICOSIA (AP) - Irish Defence Minister David Andrews met in Tehran Monday with Iran's top leaders and called for closer cooperation between Ireland and the Islamic Republic, The Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said that a meeting with President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mr. Andrews proposed that a letter of understanding be signed between Iran and Ireland to promote ties. Mr. Andrews told Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, that Iran could dispatch students to Ireland to take advantage of his country's technological expertise, IRNA reported. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, in turn, said Iran was ready to exchange expertise in forestry, fishing, as well as jetty and ship building. In a meeting with Mr. Andrews, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said there were ample grounds for cooperation between the two countries, said IRNA.

Sudan publisher ousted from Assembly

KHARTOUM (AP) -- Sudan's parliament adopted a resolution Monday urging dismissal of Mahjoub Orwa, editor and publisher of a banned newspaper, as a member of the appointed parliament. The move followed state television's showing Saturday of an interrogation of Mr. Orwa by men offscreen over his contacts with a foreign government. Members of the Transitional National Council sent a recommendation for Mr. Orwa's dismissal to military ruler Omer Hassan Al Bashir, who appointed the 300 members of the parliament, the official Sudan News Agency reported. Mr. Orwa, whose Al Sudani international was Sudan's only independent daily, is being questioned about "communicating with foreign agencies to disrupt stability and peace in Sudan," Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. Mr. Orwa, who appeared shaky and confused on television, admitted to possession of messages exchanged with officials in Saudi Arabia on his efforts to press freedom law in Sudan. Mr. Orwa's critical of the Bashir government and its Islamic orientation and calling for the separation of southern Sudan. The Sudanese South has been involved in a 10-year civil war with the government. General Bashir signed the closure of Mr. Orwa's newspaper. Before Gen. Bashir seized power in a June. 1989 bloodless coup, Sudan had a relatively free press.

RABAT (AFP) — About 70,000 voters in Morocco were set

Moroccans vote in replay elections

to vote Tuesday in a partial replay of last year's legislative and local elections. The vote concerns 14 parliamentary and 209 local council seats where in all but one case the outcome of elections held last June and September was invalidated on the grounds of irregularities. The single exception is a by-election to replace a deputy who died. A total of 86 candidates are going after the 14 parliamentary seats though the election will not affect the overwhelming majority of the right and centre-right in the 333-seat assembly. Chadians, Libyans set pullout timetable

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chadian and Libyan military officers

have set a timetable for Libyan withdrawal from the disputed Aouzou Strip in northernmost Chad by May 30, the president's office said here Monday. Dates for a pullout from five localities were worked out in Aouzou township on Sunday by the two sides, with U.N. observers in attendance, the government said. Libya occupied the semi-desert territory in 1972, and the two countries fought a number of wars over it. Both sides are carrying out mine-clearing operations while. Libya removes its military garrison and civilian administrative staff. The strip is believed to contain significant deposits of uranium and manganese. Libya is leaving following a ruling by the international Court of Justice at the Hague in February confirming Chadian sovereignty.

also have been detained. had been arrested on drugthe three policy fields in a hundreds of Kuwaitis believed It said Mr. Kermani's whererelated charges and for alcohol by Kuwait, despite Iraqi de-nials, to still be held by confederal system would help abouts and the motive for his Kuwait survive in a region that consumption. arrest were likewise unknown. His March 14 arrest coinwas likely to continue to be

Syrian businessman's ventures questioned PORTLAND (AP) - A former convenience store owner reportedly has won a contract to build a \$250 million fertiliser

empty promise to investors. The Business Journal said Mr. Mouakad has traded heavily on his political connections to former Governor Vic Atiyeh, a cousin to Mr. Mouakad's ex-wife, and Denny Smith, a former congress-

Mr. Smith is vice chairman of Makad International Ltd., known as Makad group, the holding company that is a play on the spelling of Mr. Mouakad's name. Mr.

"He's a very good sales-

The weekly said extensive interviews and public records show that during the last 15 years, Mr. Mouakad has

formed and dissolved several companies, gone through bankruptcy twice, lost his home to foreclosure, failed to pay numerous creditors and investors, and lost sexual

Betty Hoel, 53, and her mother, Hazel Cunningham, invested \$75,000 in Mr. Monakad's Tecorp International Trading Company in the late 1980s. It was the last they

first Oregon company, Arab

loans from Mr. Kahl's rela-The company was dissolved

osed shipping holstein bulls to China, mushrooms to Japan and a nail plant to Tonga. None of those deals ever materialised, the newspaper

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PROGRAMME TWO Ordy . N.B.A. sport 771331. News in French 19:15 ogy . News in Arabic Too Close for Comfort The World of The Thirties

News in English
Poldark 21:39 PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweilleh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Augunciation Tcl. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

ta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annuaciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. t. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 elical Lutheran Church Tel: German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tci.675691. Tel. 811295

WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of

Temperatures will rise gradually with winds northeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 8/24 7/26 Jordan Valley

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 28, Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 28 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Walid Al Masri ... Dr. Ramzi Mzawi mad Omran Dr. Mohan 612232 Fires pharmacy ... 778336 Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh oharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 637660 623672 Al Ouds pharmacy EMERGENCIES

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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-

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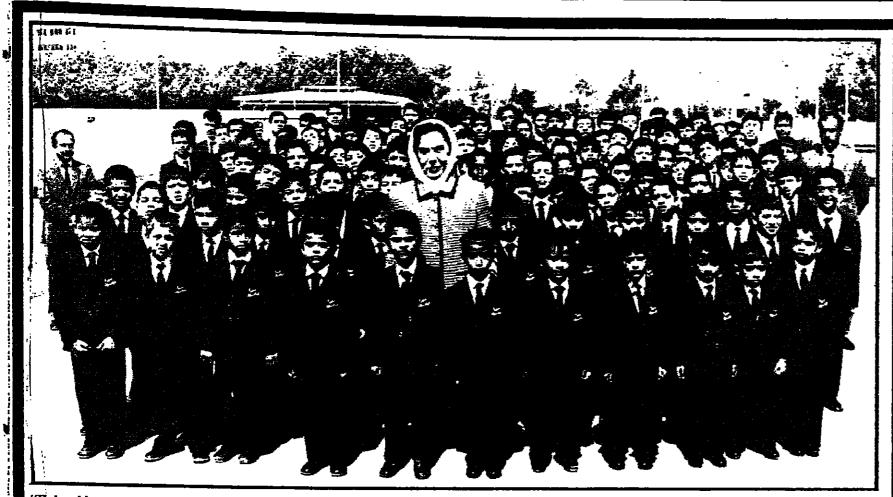
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A.



"Ve loved her very much and we will miss her." Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, with boys of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "She was a loving mother. She was so kind, segenerous. She always gave is everything we wanted. We vill miss her very much." aid 12-year-old Samir Abu weik, a student at Um Al

Iussein Orphanage. The 150 boys of the rphanage were deeply sadened Tuesday to hear of the assing of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf. The Queen Mother was the onorary president of the Jm Al Hussein Orphanage,

which was originally established as the Jordanian Orphanage in 1951. Since taking on her role there in 1965, Queen Zein paid undivided attention to the care, education and happiness of the orphans who range in age from six to 18.

Hamdan Eneizat, a firstgrade teacher at the orphanage, was preparing a speech for the commencement excercises to graduate the orphanage's senior class when he was brought the sad

"I had just brought the speech to the principal and he told me of the Queen Mother's passing." Griefstricken, Mr. Eneizat went back to his class to break the news to the children.

The younger ones, he said, kept asking "where did our mother go." "To heaven," he

would reply.
The older boys wept, said
Mr. Eneizat. The teachers spent the afternoon comforting the children, who could not help but remember that Mother's Day was only a short month ago. To these children,

Mother's Day was always the best day of the year. The boys would dress in their smart uniforms and set off to the Raghadan Palace for a very special gathering with the Queen Mother.

"Every Mother's Day Queen Zein would greet each and every one of us, give us a gift and then spend time talking to us about how important it is to study so that we would grow up to have a good life," said Kifah Teiyem, a ninth grader.

"I feel like every other orphan does ... now I'm an orphan again ... I lost my mother again," said Kifah.

row was felt by all at Um Al Hussein Orphanage. All the boys sat quietly with sullen faces and many tears.

As the symbol of motherhood, Queen Zein gave the children the feeling of belonging. She was warm and tender and instilled in them the security of having a family. It is very difficult for such children to so suddenly lose the compassion and source of hope that the Queen Mother gave them, said Ismail Šweidan, a third grade



Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf

Africans vote in embassy in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eight South Africas living in Jordan cast their vces in their country's first minracial elections, one of ... thin turning up at the. maeshift polling booth at the contry's diplomatic mission operating out of a hotel room in amman half an hour before shecould vote.

Bur of the voters were emissy staff, headed by the chif of mission, Anthony B. Grenham, who holds the rank of carge d'affaires. Others inclued Mrs. Greenham, two touists and one of three South Afreans who are permanent resdents in Jordan, Mr. Grenham told the Jordan

If the three South African nationals, all of them women maried to Jordanians and registeed with the Jordanian Minitry of Interior, only one

One of the visitors, a woman, was "so enthusiastic to vote that she called up Monday night to ensure that she could exercise her right to vote." said Mr. Greenham. "She turned up at the mission five minutes to seven so that she could still leave on her trip to Petra," he

The day's voting was moni-ored by an official delegated by the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Greenham said.

The ballot box was to be sealed and packed along with unused ballot papers in the monitor's presence and sent by courier to South Africa immediately after voting closed at

The South African mission is operating out of the Forte Grand Hotel pending the availability of a suitable build-

ing, Mr. Greenham said. Mr. Greenham declined comment when asked how many of the voters here were

black. "We don't do that anymore in South Africa," he said, referring to the end of the apartheid that has come to end

in his country.

"If you insist, you could say that a majority of the yours were white," he told the Jordan Times. It was believed that two of

the eight voters were black. three registered nondiplomatic South Africans liv-. ing in Jordan, two are of Asian origin - described in South Africa as coloured in the apartheid days. The other, who turned up to vote - is white.

Mr. Greenham said he was not aware of any Jordanian who is a permanent resident in South Africa. "But it is quite possible," he said, noting that South African-Jordanian relations have picked up and trade ties were improving in the wake of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Amman and Pretoria last year.

Mr. Greenham deplored the

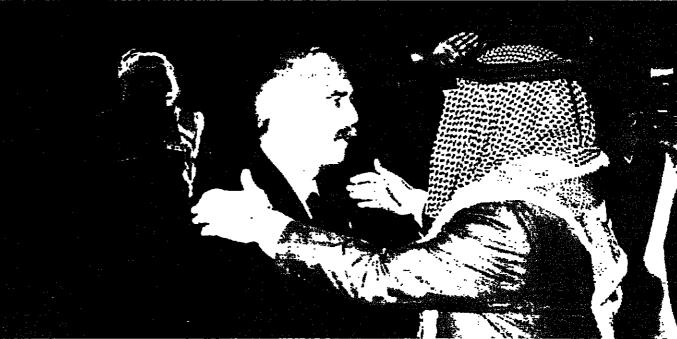
election violence that plagued his country. "It is a shame," he said, "they are killing innocent people for no reason."

There is an irreversible process of change under way in the country and those who turned to violence for whatever reason do not seem to have been able to comprehend it, he

tical violence since President F.W. de Klerk moved to remove the last remnants of racial segregation and organise the country's first multi-racial elections.

At least 24 people were kil-led in three bombings in South Africa on Monday and Tuesday. International agency reports indicated that whites from the Afrikaner community who resented being forced to share power with the blacks or feared losing their edge in an equal-opportunity post-apartheid South Africa were behind the bombings.

Queen Mother's body flown home



Is ael-PLO autonomy agreement further delayed autonomy deal, but declined to constructive," said Israeli dethe economic talks had so far (Continued from page 10) not been very successful while legation spokesman Arik Gording elaborate. "The opposition has the full

optios for the election system. differnt models, by propor-. tion a mixed. It will be supervisedby 22 nations, so it will be totall democratic. Dr Erakat added that any

occurred territories, can vote or an for office. He said he had opened talks on the preparations with Palstinian opponents of the

Continued from page 10)

broight the Islamist Islah party

intothe coalition government.

M. Basendwa said the crisis

wasa "power struggle follow-

ing he elections. It will affect

the SP and the way out of it

will intail the YSP sacrificing

someof its hawks who advocate

The GPC and YSP signed a

reconiliation accord in Jordan

in Feruary providing for poli-tical, economic, military and

Only hours after the signing,

rival army units clashed in

administrative reforms.

secesson.

Palesinian, from within the

right to know what we are doing, to have a say in it."
In Paris, Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO negotiator Ahmad Qouriea met for nearly three hours early on Tuesday to try to bridge the gap on future economic ties between selfgoverning Palestinian areas and Israel.

"The meeting was pretty

Egypt and the United Arab

Emirates are currently mediat-

An envoy of Egyptian Presi-dent Hosni Mubarak left for

home on Tuesday at the end of

a 10-day visit and said media-

tion efforts were continuing.

Political sources said Egypt

would like to have concrete

guarantees from Mr. Saleh and

Mr. Beidh before hosting a

"What is best about the

Egyptian initiative is that Cairo

does not want to call for the

summit before assurances it

summit meeting between them

in Cairo.

ing in the Yemeni crisis.

following the session which began late on Monday and carried on into early Tuesday.
"They listed points that will

be dealt with during this round of talks and discussed how to handle donor pledges," Mr. Gordin said. The Paris discussions are

taking place parallel to sepa-rate talks between Israel and the PLO in Cairo. Mr. Gordin said on Monday

Mr. Shohat said before leaving Israel the Palestinians might have to begin self-rule with Israel still in control of their

economy.

But Mr. Gordin said on Tuesday that after Mr. Shohal and Mr. Qouriea met, experts from both sides broke up into specialised sub-groups to press ahead with separate discussions on such topics as customs

chiefs of staff.

staff. Gen. Klaus Naumann, said after the meeting.

UNPROFOR spokesman Williams underlined that the deadline was "very, very

In London, diplomats from a newly-formed "contact group" concluded their first meeting promising to travel to Bosnia to meet with the warring factions, the Foreign Office said.

"They agreed the priority was to try to restore momenengaging the parties in negotiaseven-member contact group would conduct it s work in the remit given by the European Union and the United Nations" and would travel "shortly" to Bosnia, but did not elaborate.

The contact group includes three delegates representing the United Nations and the European Union and two each from the United States and

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British counterpart Douglas, Hurd announced the creation of the contact group here Monday after a day of meetings they had with French Foreign Minister Alain Jupee and Russian special envoy Vitaly Chur-

large pieces of the 200-squarekilometre enclave, a U.N.declared "safe area" that is home to about 65,000 residents and refugees.

says its forces captured 170 square kilometres.





His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, other members of the Royal Family and senior officials on Tuesday receive Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor upon their arrival bringing home the

body of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away in a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland (Petra

will be a success," Mr. Basendnorthirn and southern parts of

(Continued from page 10)

No Yemeni war or partition

818 p.m. (1118 GMT), offi-cals said.

"But then I heard a woman "When I to the plane, it calling in pain for help and I called for a stretcher and we loked so bad that I thought everyone must have died," rescued her," he said. sād Takahide Miyagi, a

253 killed in plane crash

Nagoya district assistant fire chief.

tions about a settlement. The spokesman said the

Serbs continue withdrawal

(Continued from page 10)

and in Bosnia respectively, gave a run-down of the Gorazde situation to NATO's military committee comprising

"It looks promising at the moment but it's a fluid situation." the German chief of

tum to the peace process," said a spokesman. "They will explore urgently the prospects for a cessation of hostilities and

Serbs have won control of

The Bosnian Serb military

been official Kazakhs ALMAITY (Chinese Pre nging bre

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Sand Atabia) The message whe border t wine but th Iran worm Tuesday I the Parliament Spa dunts the sick

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True to style, the secretive

"I'm not going to take a post," Mr. Ozawa reiteratec.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Loss for the nation

THE PASSING of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Oueen Mother, yesterday has been and will continue to be deeply mourned by all Jordanians. Not only was she the mother of our leader His Majesty King Hussein but also a Hashemite who made a lasting contribution towards shaping the destiny of the country throughout the past five decades. Right from the start when the Late King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951 at a very critical period in the life of the Kingdom, the late Queen helped steer the country through the difficult transitionary period between the reign of King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, and that of King Hussein. Throughout that period and beyond, Her Majesty's unflinching support and wise counsel to the young monarch was critical to the success of the march and to the stability and well-being of the country as a whole. The history of Jordan will accord the Queen Mother a special place in its annals, not only because she gave birth to a born leader and a beloved king, but also because she was in her own right a Hashemite lady who made sacrifice in silence and lived to be an example for others. For all those who were privileged enough to know her well, she exemplified majesty in every sense of the word in dealing with issues and people. There was always time in the late Queen's life for charity, the needy and the handicapped, especially to the orphaned children of Jordan. There were countless occasions when the Queen Mother sponsored activities in order to support those among us who needed help even when her health was failing. Her efforts in this regard will not

Jordan today is even more united behind His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the entire Royal Family in their bereavement and time of sorrow. There is in every Jordanian home a sense of loss and sadness that they deeply share with their leader, the ever compassionate father of this nation.

be easily forgotten.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN DAILIES commented Tuesday on the U.S. acceptance of Jordan's proposal to replace the sea inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping with a new land-based system to verify the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Al Ra'i daily said that the U.S. positive response to Jordan's proposals come in the wake of a firm Jordanian position as Jordan repeatedly asserted its compliance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions. The paper pointed out that the sea-inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping is futile since the passages to Iraq are numerous and they are not subject to inspection unless this siege (of Agaba) has other objectives that are related to the Jordanian position on the peace process. The paper said the U.S. approval of the Jordanian proposals will eliminate a clear contradiction between the objectives of the peace process and the imposition of unjustified sanctions

SAWT AL SHAAB describes U.S. response to Jordan's proposal as a positive development in the U.S. position on the siege of Aqaba. Noting that the development in the U.S. position can be envisaged as a U.S. desire to resume U.S. role in the peace process, the paper said if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher — during his Middle Eastern tour exerts enough effort to persuade Israel to comply with the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied territories, then the peace process will make reasonable and acceptable proposals. Otherwise, the paper said, Israel and the U.S. administration will be responsible for any failure in the peace

AL DUSTOUR daily welcomed the U.S. positive response to Jordan's proposal as righting a wrong and hoped for an immediate realisation at the U.S. promises. Attributing the change in U.S. position to the courageous stance His Majesty King Hussein adopted by insisting on lifting the Agaba siege prior to any effective Jordanian participation in the peace negotiations, the paper said the termination of sea piracy against Jordan represents an end to plans to distort Jordan's

NATO, U.N. face questions over Gorazde mission

BRUSSELS - For the second time in two days, Bosnian Serbs have openly defied the terms of a NATO ultimatum over Gorazde although the slaughter in the Bosnian enclave has stopped and U.N. forces are now deployed there.

The question is whether the United Nations and NATO have therefore succeeded in their relief mission. or damaged their own credibility even further by failing to launch promised air strikes against Serb forces.

Paradoxically, the answer may be that both are true. NATO and U.N. officials say the most important thing was to stop the onslaught on Gorazde, which has claimed hundreds of lives in recent days despite the fact that it is one of six mainly Muslim U.N.-designated "safe areas"

With U.N. troops in the town, evacuation of the wounded can begin and aid can flow.
"We threatened air strikes

around Gorazde to achieve a clear aim - an end to the killing — and that's all that matters," said one alliance source, who asked not to be identified.

bomb the Serbs to make ourselves feel better. We have achieved our aim. But the fact remains that the Western allies, already under fire for failing to take a tougher line in the two-year war, made threats to use

"We never wanted just to

force and then did not deliver.
"A piecemeal approach doesn't do the job, half-



heartedness doesn't pay off," NATO. Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said on Saturday after the alliance had decided new measures to protect Gorazde and other

"safe areas" in Bosnia. "You have to use more decisive means and we will not hesitate to use them.

NATO asked the United Nations for permission to strike Serb forces around Gorazde on Saturday, since they had ignored alliance demands to stop their attacks

The United Nations refused, angering Woerner and prompting him to call the special U.N. representative in Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, to try to convince him to give the green light.

Again, more was at stake than just NATO's pride and the fact that the shelling was killing more people in

Akashi was convinced by Serb pledges to withdraw deadline of 0001 GMT on Sunday and wanted to give them the chance to do so. Serb forces did not complete the withdrawal in time but both the United Nations and NATO, closing ranks, said there was no immediate need for air strikes.

Something similar hap-pened with the Bosnian capit-al, Sarajevo, when NATO issued a 10-day ultimatum for the Serbs to withdraw heavy weapons from around the city or hand them over to U.N. forces in February.

The Serbs did not comply in time, although most of the

weapons were withdrawn or handed over. There were no air strikes, even though more heavy weapons were then discovered in the Sarajevo exclu-The point was that shelling

of the city had ended. NATO officials were an-

xious on Sunday to play down differences between the alliance and the United Nations over Gorazde. But it is not the first time the two organisations, large bureaucracies with sometimes conproblems working together in the post-cold war era.

When the United Nations passed a resolution on protecting "safe areas" last line. it gave the authority to order strikes not to NATO, but to

U.N. Secretary-Gereral Boutros Boutros-Ghali He finally agreed to delegate that authority to Akashi but only when it emerged to NATO's horror, that it sould take several hours dirigg training missions for strigg to get approval from Bottors-ros-Ghali at U.N. headquiters in New York.

Another part of the pro-lem is that the alliance can at only with the approval of the United Nations. In other words, NATO can issue ultimatum or set deadlin but cannot - without subs quent U.N. approval — f low through on them. "In our cooperation win the United Nations, we have

broken the golden military rule that you always have of single chain of command' said one official. "It's bould to cause problems."

These factors chip away at

the credibility of any threats that are made, perhaps llowing the Serbs to believ that they do not need to meet strict NATO deadlines it de-

"We have to see how far the Serbs will push thing but there is the danger that they will test us too far, aid will test us too far. another alliance official NATO and the United Vations do not have longho

wait.
The alliance has told I ne alliance has told le Serbs that they must nw withdraw all heavy weapes at least 20 km from Goraze by 0001 GMT of Wednesday.

Today's balance of power makes rivals out of allies threatening West European

By William Pfaff

PARIS - "I am not responsible for geography," Stalin told the Finnish government in 1938 as the demanded political

Geography has until our day been the fundamental factor in foreign policy. Dynastic conflict, disputed territorial claims, rivalry over resources. claims on ethnic minorities living across disputed frontiers. the straightforward desire for territorial aggrandisement these have been the main nonideological causes of war.

Even imperial expansion ry. Within Europe itself, national policy was driven by Hapsburg and Bourbon ter ritorial claims, Napoleonic expansionism, Prussia's ambitions to dominate the other German realms and compete with Austria, its claims on Denmark, its seizure of Alsace and Lorraine in the Franco-Prussian war, Republican France's subsequent obsession with recovering those provinces, the Austro-German-Russian rivalry for influence over the territories breaking away from the Ottoman Empire and in revolt against Austro-Hungary's own au-

American policy in the 19th century was motivated by the idea of Manifest Destiny on the North American continent, and, in the case of the war with Spain, the idea of Pacific Today power and influence no longer are linked to geography. The fact that Serbs and Croats are fighting to expand their national territories is generally taken by the rest of us as another proof that they are captives of ideas from the past. Now national power rests mainly on industry and finance, and on cultural influ-

During the period when the military reach of nations was limited, and the great powers occupied a relatively small part of the global, policies of power balance made sense. Victory in of the threat of war, required alliances that shifted the calculations of military and naval power. But what exactly does balance of power mean today?

If conflict is economic, what advantage is there in alliance with one potential rival against another? How does alliance, "balance," serve competitive economic interests?

The United States, Japan and the European Union are political and military allies, but they also are supposed to be economic rivals. They manufacture competitive goods and attempt to sell them in the same markets. The idea of economic alliance seems to make sense only as trading zones with barriers against competition. Are Mexico. Canada and the United States in an alliance directed against

the European Union and

It seems to me that a political vocabulary of power balance is often misapplied today. when commentators talk of alliance with Russia to "contain" China, or with China to "contain" Japan. Contain them from what? The industrial nations and trading blocs are rivals in certain respects, but they are also mutually dependent in that the prosperity of one relies on the general prosperity of the others. NAF-TA and the economic recovery of the United States can only benefit from European and Japanese prosperity, since all another's goods.

Geopolitical rivalry is a zerosum game in which gains by one require loss for others. Economic rivalry is a matter of marginal gains or losses within a context of general growth (or decline). In this situation, the traditional policy conception of power balance and power

advantage risks irrelevance. I do not say that classical issues of military and political rivalry and intimidation have vanished. Military power certainly remains relevant with respect to the dangers that would arise from anarchical breakdown, political retrogression or the rise of authoritarian nationalism in a nuclear Russia; or with respect to the threat of further breakdown in the Balkans, jeopardising the stability of Albania, Macedonia and Greece and indirectly

But the United States. Europe and Japan are not military rivals, and they are today's crucial powers. This means that military power does not have the significance it had before 1989. in this respect the United States, "the only superpower," is not as powerful as it was when Russia still was a global power and national power was generally measured in military terms. Military power does not generate employment and prosperity, and that it today's competition.

Effective world power is onomic and cultural. It lies in the success and good order of a nation. The nation that can successfully combine economic success and prosperity with social justice will exercise the greatest long-term influ-

In that competition America's power is compromised by the international perception that, in significant respects, it is an unjust society, distinguished by violence, social disorder and decline. European influence is limited by its recent incapacity to create jobs and prosperity. Russia still has enormous power in raw military terms but has drastically lost influence because of its economic and political disorder. These are the new factors of power and weakness in

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Ozawa emerges

named prime minister.

"It was a victory of sorts wanted."

of its lawmakers.

and he failed to split the LDP."

According to many mem-bers of parliament, Mr. Oza-

dump the Socialists. In the first week of the

(Harbingers). Mr. Takemura bitterly redefection.

Democratic Socialists shared his misgivings but shrank from confrontation with Mr. Ozawa's conservative mainstreamers. Mr. Takemura finally felt obliged

victor in Japan feud

By Eugene Moosa Reuter

TOKYO - It was no dazzling triumph but Ichiro Ozawa emerged as tactical winner of the bruising two-week face-off within Japan's ruling coalition that ended with his ally Tsutomu Hata being

for Ozawa," commentator Masayuki Fukuoka said. "He got almost everything he

Mr. Ozawa, the man many Japanese politicians love to hate, maneouvred his main critic out of the coalition, faced down the troublesome socialists and further weakened the former ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by luring away more

After 14 days of brinkmanship, the 51-year-old Schemer achieved the considerable feat on Friday of winning Mr. Hata the premiership while keeping the disparate coalition in busi-

Mr. Ozawa's own status as the alliance's master strategist and backroom fixer looks set to remain unchanged. However, Mr. Ozawa's tactical victory was not the brilliant coup he seems to

have had in mind. "I'd give him 60 points out of 100," said Fukuoka, politics professor at Hakuho University. "He had to give in to the Socialists on basic policies

wa's original masterplan was

Knowing that ageing LDP baron Michio Watanabe was desperate for a final chance to be prime minister, he set out to lure him and many supporters over to the coalition, make him head of a transitional government and

face-off, this reported radical scenario — Mr. Ozawa never owned up to it — sparked open warfare with Masayoshi Takemura, his arch-enemy in the coalition and leader of the small new party Sakigake

sented the way Mr. Ozawa had dominated the eightmonth-old coalition from the wings, practising the backdoor manoeuvring for which he was notonous as an LDP power broker before his 1993

Mr. Takemura's allies the Socialists and Centrist

to pull his party out of To Mr. Ozawa's satisfiction, however, he agreed to back Mr. Hata's premiership and the national budget is

and the national budget is party helped to draft.

The daily Sankei Shimba said the policy platform fine by approved by coalition parties on Friday after days break-up threats was drafad in secret by Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Watanahe on the Mr. Watanabe on ne

assumption that the Leust Socialists would be evicted. In the end the ditheing Mr. Watanabe failed to neet Mr. Ozawa's demands to had a massive LDP defection, although his earlier statecintention to leave pried

loose another 13 LDP relels. This meant the coalion still depended for its surval on the Socialists, with teir 74 seats in the 511-memberlower house. After fliring with walking out, the paty, which spent 45 years in unbroken opposition between 1948 and 1993, decide it preferred to stay in goern-

ment for now. 'The socialists are just being made to dance tcMr. Ozawa's tune," said ommentator Mizuho Fukshima. "They will evenually lose their identity and wil be thrown out like garbae."

The LDP, demoraised since losing its 38-year grip on power last year, is aso in steep decline, torn beween old-style hardliners and reformists led by ex-primier Toshiki Kaifu. While things may be taking longer than Mr. Ozwa would have hoped, the evints of the past two weeks have

done nothing to reversethe wholesale political realgn-ment he has long advocated and now believes is unstepp-"We're working round creating a good political ys-tem," he said on Friay.

"We're just in the proess Mr. Ozawa was once the LDP's crown pring. groomed to take over the mantle of kingmaker won by master-fundraiser Shin Fanemaru. But after Mr. Janemaru was felled by a scindal over his colossal influncepeddling exploits, Mr. Cawa defected with a group of col-leagues in 1993, bringing

down the LDP government.
Then, with fellow cospirator Mr. Hata, Ozawa et up the Shinseito (Renewal Party), which was to be instrumental in installing Mr. Hosokawa's coalition last

Mr. Ozawa persuaded Mr Hata to become party head and he also refused a cabine

British neo-Fascists confident of breakthrough

By Robert Woodward

Reuter
LONDON — To nervous opponents, the neo-Fascist British National Party's bid for control of a London council poses the most serious threat to racial peace in the capital for 60 years.

Racially-motivated attacks in London's East End, an ethnically mixed and white working class district, have increased 300 per cent since the BNP won a council seat on the Isle of Dogs at a by-election last September. It was only the fifth such

success by an extreme right-

wing party in Britain.

A BNP victory in the Isle of Dogs in local elections next month, which would give it control of a U.S. \$30 million budget, would be a watershed in British politics and lead to more serious trouble, politicians say. "If the BNP wins there's

going to be fighting on the streets. It could be another Yugoslavia." said Julia Mainwaring, a candidate for the Labour Party, Labour holds power on the Isle of Dogs and is the main opposition party nationally.

"It will be a disaster, it

would be like putting a nuc-

lear bomb here," says Anamul Hoque, founder of the Tower Hamlets Against Rac-

ism pressure group in the East End. "We would be dealing with a party that openly advocates forced repatriation - it would be a big blow to democracy in Britain,

a mad thing to happen."
The BNP, which will put forward more than 30 candidates nationwide at the elec-tions on May 5, says it does not know what the fuss is about. It says its supporters stay within the law and it is merely voicing the concerns of ordinary Britons. Not all Britons, of course.

Just the whites. "Our definition of racism is that we want a council and a government that looks after British people. And by British we mean white," says BNP spokesman Mike New-

We tell people who want to go round affacking black people because they resent them in this country 'Don't break the law - join with us in legitimate political activity'. That's a perfectly proper thing for us to do."
Since the BNP set up its

The BNP believes it can

headquarters in a bookshop in nearby south London about three years ago, there has been a sharp increase in racial attacks in areas of the capital with significant black and Asian populations. Shortly before the BNP's

Derek Beackon won his seat by just seven votes, an Asian boy, Quddus Ali, was beaten badly by white youths. Protest marches over the incident caused Britain's worst race-related unrest since inner-city riots in the early

Tower Hamlets council is run by the centrist liberal democrats. But under their devolved system the Isle of Dogs has its own "neighbourhood" council. The BNP hopes to win three of the Isle of Dogs' five seats, giving it overall control.

Politics in the East End have embraced both the hard left of Dockworkers' Unions and the extreme right of Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts of the 1930s, a nationwide movement which died with the outbreak of World War II against Nazi Germany in

become a permanent force in the East End by tapping fears of whites that immigrants jump the queue for scarce housing, and disillusion with established political parties, fanned by a jobless rate of about 20 per cent. "There is a growing awareness of the split be-

tween the three main parties

and ordinary people. They

(parties) simply don't repre-

take no notice of what people in this country want," Newland told Reuters. "We are trying to take over from Labour as the party of ordinary people," he added.

The conservatives, in govern-

ment nationally, have only a

sent them any more - they

small following in East London.
The BNP has tried to shake off its popular image of shaven-headed yobs roaming the backstreets attacking blacks, and put itself forward as a serious political force. "In the past the only way

we could get publicity was by

doing things like marches which then attracted vio-

lence... then of course we

were associated with violence," Newland said.
"We haven't given credibility to beating people up on the street, we've never encouraged people to do that, we've never organised it," he said. "But we've given a greater degree of respectability to right-wing political

Anti-racist campaigners say BNP proposals to repatriate immigrants and repeal race relations legislation has legitimised racist violence. They also blame increased territors on legal viboral tension on local Liberal Democrat and Labour figures playing the "race card".

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AMMAN (AP) - Eighteen more Palestinian deportees are scheduled to cross into the West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday as a result of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisa-Khatib, deputy chief of the PLO mission here, said 11 of the latest batch will cross the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank. The rest will use the Rafah crossing from Egypt to Gaza. Mr. Khatib said he had received a list of 18 Palestimans from PLO negotiators in Cairo. He said that earlier Israel had agreed to only eight.

Yemen, S. Arabia postpone new border talks

SANAA (R) - A new round of talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to settle a long-standing dispute over a possible oil-rich border area has been postponed, Yemeni officials said on Tuesday. The talks between experts from both countries were due to start in Riyadh on Monday. One official source said Yemen asked for more time to study a message sent last week by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to its President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The message was conveyed by Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Khoweiter, who heads the Saudi delegation to the border talks. Seven rounds of border talks have been held so far, but the source said little progress has been made.

Iran women to work in the legal system

TEHRAN (AFP) - The Iranian parliament has passed a draft law allowing women to become legal advisors for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, parliamentary sources said Tuesday. The vote infuriated hardline deputies. One said: "women are weak, and could change their judgment if seduced."
Parliament Speaker Al Akbar Nateq-Nuri rejected the argument during the debate on Sunday, saying Islam had never prevented women from securing legal advisors to the courts.

UAE seized hundreds of illegal immigrants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Coast guards in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have seized nearly 300 illegal immigrants from Asia in separate raids on boats off the eastern coast, a spokesman said Tuesday. He said 36 were captured as they tried to land near the port of Fujairah early Tuesday and 38 were seized in the same area on Monday. The nearly 300 infiltrators so far this month have included 70 Iranians, 61 Pakistanis, 58 Indians, 57 Bangladeshis and the rest were Afghans, the coast guard spokesman told AFP by telephone from Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman.

Sudanese diplomat in Somali captivity

NAIROBI (AFP) - Efforts to secure the release of the Sudanese ambassador kidnapped by Somali gunmen in Moga-dishu last week have failed as factional fighting kept officials from meeting the abductors, officials said Tuesday. Sudanese officials who went to the Somali capital last week to try to negotiate with the kidnappers were available to meet the abductors because factional fighting prevented them from moving around the city, a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy here said. The ambassador, Abdul Bagi Mohammad Hassan, was abducted on Tuesday last week by four Somalis who said they were from the Hawadle clan. They demanded a ransom of

Former editor of Cyprus Mail dies

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NICOSIA (AP) - Ken Mackenzie, former editor of the Cyprus Mail, has died. He was 73. The English-language newspaper Tuesday reported that police found Mackenzie, a Scot, dcad in his Nicosia apartment on Sunday. The cause of death was not given. Coroner Marios Matsakis was quoted as saying Mackenzie had been dead for three to five days, but no foul play was suspected. Mackenzie was editor of the Mail in the late 1950s. He later worked for the Economist newspaper in London and Turkey, where he also wrote for the Observer, before retiring in

Syria. Russia discuss military ties

DAMASCUS (AP) -- Syrian and Russian officials on Tuesday held their second day of talks reportedly dealing with military and economic cooperation between the two countries. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said the talks focused on the "friendship and cooperation between the Syrian and Russian armies and ways of boosting them." It did not elaborate. Sources said the two sides were expected to seek new contracts for spare parts that would pit weapons Syria received from the former Soviet Union. Earlier, SANA reported that Syria's ministers of economy, finance and planning had lengthy talks with Russians to discuss "ways of boosting trade, economic and technical relations." After the first round of talks Monday, Syrian officials said the two sides also would discuss rescheduling Syria's debts.

Saddam birthday festivities start

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is preparing an elaborate programme of events to mark President Saddam Hussein's 57th birthday. Baghdad's official press on Tuesday unveiled plans for score of events leading to the April 28 birthday celebration in Tikrit, President Saddam's home town, from street parties to parades, art festivals, exhibitions and music concerts. Streets in Baghdad and Tikirt, 170 kilometres north of the capital, are festooned with ribbons and colourful portraits of President Saddam.

Son of Mexican magnate kidnapped

MEXICO CITY (R) — The son of a supermarket magnate was kidnapped Monday, the second abduction of a wealthy Mexican in six weeks. Separately, the abductors who seized the chairman of Mexico's biggest banking group on March 14 repeated their threat to kill him unless the ransom — which they said was less than \$100 million - was paid. The threat was made in a letter to Reuters. It was unclear whether the two kidnappings were related. In what seemed to be an effort to calm local businessmen and international investors worried about the rising violence, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari Monday created a new agency to coordinate national public security.

Rescuers find \$650,000 after Russian crash

MOSCOW (R) - Almost \$650,000 in cash has been recovered from the site of last month's Airbus A-310 crash and handed over to a government commission in Siberia, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday. The agency quoted an official from the Siberian Kemerovo region as saying cash collected by rescue teams working on the wreckage comprised \$375,000 and 500 million roubles (\$280,000). All 75 people on board the scheduled Aeroflot flight from Moscow to Hong Kong died when the European-built airliner crashed near the town of Mezhdureckensk. A Russian government commission investigating the accident has said a member of the cockpit crew was showing his children how to pilot the plane minutes before it went down, but the cause of the crash has not yet been officially determined.

Kazakhstan, China settle border dispute

ALMATY (AFP) - President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Chinese Premier Li Peng signed here Tuesday a landmark treaty ending a longstanding border dispute and giving a new impetus to bilateral relations. "This treaty will give a strong push to further development of friendly relations between our countries," the Chinese premier said here following the signing of the border treaty. "We have just witnessed an historic act," said Mr. Nazarbayev of the treaty defining the entire 1,700-kilometres (1,062-mile) border between the two

Amman hosts conference on museums and heritage

Jordan underlines keen interest in preserving human culture

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saced Tal Tuesday formally opened a four-day conference entitled "Encounter Professionals of Arab Countries' Museums, Civilisation and Development" at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman in the presence of President of Mali Alpha Omar Conary and other dignatories.

In his brief address, Dr. Tal welcomed the Mali president and underlined Jordan's deep keenness in preserving human culture and promoting the work and the role of museums.

Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan addressed the opening ceremony dwelling on the importance of museums and their role in culture.

Jordan is an open museum dotted with numerous archaeological sites that relate the tale of ancient civilisations and the history of humanity and common heritage, the minister said.

The role of museums in highlighting and documenting the human perpetuity among peoples and civilisations over the epochs of history constitute a scientific and cultural link where the care for museum forms a common international responsibility and a source of great care to all countries, Dr. Adwan added.

Mounir Bouchnaki, repre-sentative of the director gener-al of the United Nations Educational. Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) addressed the session as did Mr. Saroj Ghose, president of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and Dr. Safwan Tal, director general of the department of antiquities.

Dr. Ghose told the meeting that the conference was seeking to take stock of the state of the art in Arab museums and mobilise the cumulative pool of knowledge from the world of museums. He said that museums serve

as custodians of the human heritage and therefore have the responsibility of linking the future of man with his heritage of the past. Dr. Conary addressed the

lences to the royal family and the Jordanian people on the passing of Her Majesty Queen The president focused attention on the need to promote

audience by expressing condo-

the work of museums and related his country's endeavours in this respect.

Dr. Conary, who once served as ICOM president, paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his attention to promote world culture and The meeting, organised in

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Tuesday

holds talks with Mali President Alfa Omar thanked him for his invitation to visit Jordan.

He underlined the need for states and non-governmental organisations to cooperate in promoting world culture.

by the Regent, is designed to underline the importance of artefacts, antiquities and museums in shedding light on the legacy and various cultures

County, who arrived here to attend a conference on museums (Petra photo)

implementation of directives

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY,

More than 80 professionals from 20 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the meeting. The delegation will be taken on tours to archaeololeft by mankind, according to gical sites in the country.

Cut in sales tax rate means no payraises or additional services

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hopes of civil servants for a possible pay rise this year have all but vanished in the wake of the slashing of the rate of sales tax in the related draft by the Lower House of Parliament this week, officials and analysts

said Tuesday.

During their debate on the draft law on Sunday, deputies voted to reduce the general rate of sales tax from 10 per cent to seven per cent.

This reduction is estimated to cut the expected tax revenues for fiscal 1994 from JD 170 million to JD 150 million, analysts say.

While the government did not make an explicit linkage between the tax and a possible salary increase for civil servants, statements by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Finance Minister Sami Gammoh before Sunday's vote had left the door open for an eventual increase in salaries in the public sector.

Dr. Majali told Parliament during the pre-vote debate on the rate of sales tax would not only preempt civil servant pay raises, but also infrastructure and government services demanded by deputies themsevies for their constituencies.

In a press conference on Monday, Dr. Majali reaffirmed the position and said the deputies "will have to be satisfied with the shortcoming in the budget."

The prime minister was answering a question whether

Accused

the government was planning any interim measure to plug the expected shortfall in the budget for 1994 as a result of the slashing in the sales tax

For the first time, according to the government interpreta-tion, the nearly JD 1.5 billion budget for 1994 does not have a pre-financing deficit. Local revenues and committed foreign assistance worth JD 150 million would make up proiected expenditures.

However, the budget does not include an estimated JD 300 million for servicing foreign debts. This gap is expected to be plugged by international

In his comments on Monday, Dr. Majali did not refer to any such measures, but noted that if the government were to increase civil servant salaries and also meet the demands of the deputies for services and infrastructure it has to have more funds. A senior official said: "It is

simple. The deputies cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, they have cut down the expected government re-venues, while on the other hand they want the government to increase salaries and also finance projects in their constituencies.

Government officials have been saying that there were no plans for any across-the-board pay raise for civil servants, but the local media have spoken of a government committee report that was supposed to have included an increase.

The purported report, whose existence officials have have included higher allowances for members of Parliament.

According to the reports, members of Parliament will get an increase of JD 400, making their montly allowance JD 1,000, and senior officials of the rank of secretary-generals of ministries, including heads of government departments, will get a monthly increase of JD 300.

The reports suggested that an across-the-board raise of JD 22 for all categories of govern-ment servants and public sector employees was being considered as the proposed raise.

While denying the report, Mr. Gammoh, the finance minister, affirmed that month that the government was considering an efficiency-oriented incentive programme for civil

"We have been studying such a plan for some time now," Mr. Gammoh said. This would only involve those civil servants who prove their efficiency and productivity." Mr. Gammoh declined to give details of the efficiency-

oriented pay raises, pointing out that the committee had not completed its work. Other oficials said the orientation was towards civil servants who have had proven

records of efficiency as well as those who work in rural areas where the relative luxuries and better living conditions are There was no indication on

Tuesday whether the government was forced to abandon this scheme also as a result of the cut in tax revenues.

no schedule for ending sanctions on Iraq

Ekeus has.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The United Nations needs more time to implement its monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme before it will lift its trade embargo, a U.N. envoy said on Tuesday at the end of a visit to Baghdad.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, did not give Iraq a timetable for when it could resume oil exports as Baghdad had been hoping.

"It is up to the Security Council to take any steps like easing sanctions or lifting the embargo on Iraq," Mr. Ekeus told a news conference before leaving. U.N. officials have said the

destruction of Iraq's prohibited weapons is almost complete but they are seeking further documentation on the manufacture and disposal of chemic-

Mr. Ekeus said the U.N. needed more time and action to put its arms monitoring and verification programme into

"We are close to end the chapter, but it is not completely closed," he said.

Mr. Ekeus said he was phasing out Iraq inspections and focusing on how to ensure that Baghdad would not reacquire weapons banned under the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"Fundamentally we are leaving the stage of identifying the past programme (and are) put-ting monitoring and verifica-tion in place," the envoy said.

Mr. Ekeus expressed appreciation for the positive response and support given to our inspection team by the Iraqi authorities." U.N. spokesman Tim Trevan said.

Baghdad was committed to cooperating with UNSCOM in charge of stripping post-war Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Ekeus said. Mr. Trevan said the UN-SCOM chief read out a joint U.N.-Iraqi statement after a new round of talks with Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad

"The progress made is considerable" since March, when Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz travelled to New York to urge the United Na-tions to lift its embargo on his country, the statement said. But UNSCOM had not yet

Saeed Al Sahaf.

reached the stage when it could report to the U.N. Security Council that Irao had complied with its commitments under paragraph 22 of the Resolution The official Iraqi News

Agency (INA) said Mr. Ekeus, who met Mr. Aziz on Monday, had held detailed talks since Sunday on setting up a timetable for the monitoring programme as well as for the implementation of paragraph 22.

The paragraph states that the oil embargo will be lifted once Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations on disarmament.

Mr. Ekeus has said a probationary period would be necessary to see how well the long-term monitoring worked before UNSCOM could state that Baghdad had complied with U.N. demands.

Israel refloods Hula

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel began reflooding the northern Hula Valley on Monday, four decades after it hailed the draining of the wetlands as a triumph of man over nature. The Jewish National Fund

(JNF) scheme of dry out the ancient swamps and lake north of the Sea of Galilee, discussed for almost a century, began soon after Israel was established in 1948 to create farmland which was in short supply.

Upon completion in 1958, it was hailed as another example of the new state's conquest over nature. But victory was declared too soon.

Soil under the lake, expected to be marginal, was discovered to be among the most fertile in Israel. But soil under the former swamp further north - much larger than the lake - did not meet enthusiastic predictions.

At the same time, changes in the course of the Jordan River damaged the quality of water entering the Sea of Galilee, threatening the source of one third of Israel's fresh water. Now the JNF, Israel's agri-

culture ministry, land and wa-ter authorities are investing \$20 million in projects to restore a large part of the wet-Under the plan about a

planer of the former swi now soggy farmland, will become a recreation area. On Monday, officials inau-

gurated the project by opening a dam and flooding 617 hectares with water from the Jordan, an agriculture ministry okesman said.

The plan falls short of full restoration - the old lake bottom, for example, is too valuable to reflood.

The Jordan River course, straightened to speed its flow through the valley in the 1950s, will return to the meandering stream that watered the most northern papyrus swamp in the Middle East.

Residents, now unable to earn a living from increasingly waterlogged land, will run lucrative tourist facilities. Hotels will be banned to protect the environment.

When the drainage project started in 1951, a few years after DDT had cradicated the malaria that once ravaged the former residents, the shallow Lake Hula covered 14 square kilometres while its swamps spread over 21 square kilometres - and three times that area during winter rains.

The drainage destroyed the valley's ecology, eradicating a rich variety of birds and plants along with the mosquitoes.

"The assessment is that all the animals which were in Hula in the past will return," agri-culture ministry official Yigal Chen said in a radio interview on Sunday.

Written records dating back 3,500 years refer to Hula as a a route for every type of life moving along the great slash of the rift valley that reaches from Africa to Syria.

The cycle of draining and flooding the valley has been going on for thousands, prob-ably millions, of years.

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY **ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT** BETWEEN

JORDAN AND EGYPT **ADVERTISEMENT** FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JE 06/90

AQABA 400/132 KV SUBSTATION AND CABLE TERMINAL STATION AT AQABA SHORE IN JORDAN

The Jorgan Electricity Authority declares the reissue of Tender No. JE06/90 for Aqaba 400/132KV Substation and Cable Terminal Station at the Agaba shore in Jordan which includes:

 The engineering, design, CIF delivery, installing, testing and commissioning of 400KV SF6 metalclad switchgear (Option 1) or conventional switchgear (option 2) and ancillary equipment complete with civil works and firefighting system for transformers and shunt reactors for Aqaba 400/132 KV Substation. - Engineering, design, CIF delivery, installing, testing and commissioning of one cable terminal station at

ancillary equipment. The tenderer is requested to nominate subcontractors for civil and erection works which should be local companies registered according to current laws in

the Aqaba gulf shore in Jordan, complete with

Tenders are to be submitted to the Jordan Electricity Authority and to be in two envelopes: one envelope for the technical offer and the other for the financial offer and to be submitted at the same time.

The financial offer should include a bid bond not less than 2 per cent of the total tender price.

Submission of tender should not be later than 10 o'clock Amman time on August 1, 1994.

Tender documents can be obtained from the offices of the Jordan Electricity Authority against a cash payment of US\$1000 or a certified cheque for the same amount in the name of the Jordan Electricity Authority and to fill the purchase order accompanied by a copy of the

receipt for payment. The purchase order should clearly include the bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

in case the tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be

Offers for this tender will be opened at 12 o'clock noon Amman time, in Amman, on August 1, 1994. The tender should be valid for 150 days from date of opening the tenders.

denied, was also supposed to

spy Ames, wife agree to plea deal WASHINGTON (R) — Accused spy Aldrich Ames and his wife Rosario have tentatively agreed to a deal in which

and cooperate with investigators, Clinton administration officials said Tuesday. They said the couple, accused of passing secrets to Moscow for years in what has been described as one of the worst spy cases in U.S. history, has essentially completed

they would admit their guilt

and he would get life in prison

negotiations on the plea bargain with prosecutors. The officials said the plea could be formally entered at a court hearing in nearby Alex-andria, Virginia, as early as Thursday. A criminal indictment charging the couple could come later Tuesday, they

added. The officials previously said Mr. Ames, a 31-year Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) veteran, would have to serve life in prison as part of a proposed deal in which his Colombian-born wife would

get leniency. The officials had emphasised there would be no leniency for Mr. Ames, who has been accused of seiling secrets first to the Soviet Union and then the Russians since 1985.

Under the terms of what had been discussed, Rosario last week had been resisting the government's offer that she be required to serve five years in prison for her role in the

Christopher to press GCC for active role

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to arrive here Wednesday for talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Gulf foreign ministers, at the start of a Middle East tour including visits to Egypt, Israel and Syria.

A Gulf diplomat said Tuesday the United States wanted the six-nation Gulf Coopera-tion Council (GCC) to play a more active role in the Middle East peace process, to achieve a gradual normalisation of re-

lations with Israel. U.S. diplomats in Riyadh said Mr. Christopher would meet the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwart, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as well as King Fahd.

Mr. Christopher held talks in London Monday with King Hussein, after which he said Washington would support an end to a maritime blockade of the port of Agaba on the Red Sea which has cost Jordan more than \$1.3 billion.

Allied ships enforcing U.N. sanctions against Iraq inspect ships heading for the port.

The six GCC states, which backed the Palestinian autonomy deal signed in Washington in September, are participants 1991 Madrid conference.

in the multilateral Middle East peace talks launched at the Three of them - Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pledged to provide financial backing for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and been pressing Arab states to lift their economic boycott of Israel, or at least the indirect boycott of Western companies trading with Israel.

So far only Kuwait has announced the lifting of the indirect boycott. Other GCC members tie any economic rapprochement with

Israel to progress in the peace

On April 17 an Israeli delegation became the first to make an official visit to a Gulf Arab state, Oman, to participate in multilateral talks on Middle East water resources. Israeli officials are also ex-

pected to attend a meeting of

the multilateral working group on arms control, set for May 2 to 5 in Qatar. Five working groups were set up in Madrid — on water resources, arms control, the

environment, refugees and

The Gulf diplomat, who requested anonymity, said the GCC also wanted to know the U.S. position on future relations between Washington and Baghdad.

economic ties.

"Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which want (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's regime to fall, fear a possible lifting of the embargo" on Iraq, the diplomat said.

Kuwait in August 1990. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia "may ask the United States to step up pressure on Saddam Hussein," the diplomat said.

The U.N. imposed sanctions

after Iraqi troops invaded

House speaker sees highest importance in restructuring middle class

By Jan Glaffq pecial to the fordan Times MMAN - timer House of Farliament Statute Taher Al : group of businessman Monacy night

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t lat utmost la pomance should to given in the carrieg period to restructuring the middle class and multing it the larger sector of the Jordanian society by reducing the sectors of the poor and the wealthy.

Addressing a monthly meeting organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (IBA), Mr. Wasri stressed the need to resist all laws and policies to have them achieve t rat aim noting that the middle class is the bandbone for any sucure and leading society. "It (mic. e c. : s) absorbs all

tasic ment alon behind activiting and regiving the ecot ovements and scientific de-telopment. The said. Noting her me middle class

formed a mid-sector of the ordanian society during the Os and 60s and that people at that time were to a great extent equal in file. incomes, behaviour and living styles, Mr. I lasti warned that the situation

vas changing every day.
"The middle class retreated reainly in 1995 and is still being croded day by day to the ex-tent that the poor class has t ecome the larger and bigger sector of the Jordanian society," he emphasised.

As such, he pointed out, forh the legislative and executive authorities should focus on this basic troblem and realise that legislation and policies in the economic sphere and in the social spile to are two sides of a coin and should not neglect one at the supense of the

"Legion data and policies should be not one com-plementary the will Mr. Name demilled the following points which a legislator

should consider then formuedicies: . Eliminative at least reducing the imbalances in the economy and the socie2. Ensuring that legislations be stable and the policies be adequate and coherent with each other;

3. Keeping up with economic, financial and social developments in the Jordanian society and the world

Economic identity

However, Mr. Masri cautioned, the process of formulating economic legislations cannot by any means keep pace with the need of economic and social development and growth, unless it has a reference specifying the identity of economic system sought and aimed at.

"There have been much talk about Jordan's economic system, but the main features of what have been tabled are still not clear. We are still far from any comprehensive and complementary programme that suits our current stage," he garded as the backbone of the Jordanian economy. This entails that the executive authority start laying down legisla-tions to control and organise economic activity without any direct interference in it.

As an example, he pointed out, it is illogical to privatise the Jordanian Electric Authority or the Telecommunications Corporation and some public hospitals while the government still owns large equity in some hotels, newspapers and other

He said that it was also illogical to privatise such public sector institutions before laying down the necessary leg-islation and drawing the right criteria which the private sector should follow.

'An economic system which, since the early 70s, was moving to depend on the pub-lic sector, and gradually mov-ing away from the private sector, cannot reverse its course except through organised, programmed and well-studied measures" Mr. Masri said.



Taher Al Masri addressing the business gathering (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Stressing that it is very pressing to reconsider Jordan's economic course, especially after the 88-89 crisis, the House speaker and former prime minister suggested the following lines which could help draw the general framework for a new economic drive:

A. The private sector and enterpreneurship should be re-

B. Highest attention should be given to the government system to ensure the highest productivity to avoid it turning to be a burden on development plans and an obstacle hindering administrative and economic development.

"The government system is expanding year after year mainly to ease the pressure of

employment," Mr. Masri said. noting that there was no regard to selecting qualified persons to the right positions.

"This expansion has become a burden on the treasury and on the taxpayer without any justification," he added.

He pointed out that recur-

rent spending in the budget was increasing every year at the expense of capital expenditure, resulting in fewer or weakened basic services, such as health and education, and in widening social gaps.

Mr. Masri said recurrent

spending was eating a large portion of the budget without receiving a direct economic re-

turn from it.
"With rising living costs,
there is a high percentage of civil servants living near, or sometimes, below poverty line." he said adding: "And because of the bloated

public sector year after year, the government finds itself unable to improve wages and, even if salaries were increased, the raises would not make life much better for a civil servant whose living conditions may even stay the same."

As a result, Mr. Masri saw an imbalance between the private sector awaiting, in vain, for better services from civil servants, whose productivity has decreased and bureaucracy has increased due to a climate of depression engulfing the public sector.

"This imbalance, which grows day after day, negatively affects the economic situation and prospects for investment expansion and, in many circumstances, prevents the government from implementing its policies and projects efficiently and quickly," he emphasised. C. The necessity to deal very seriously with various

changes that are taking place whether in scientific and technical development and in the emergence of world economic blocs or in the development of new and diversified economic thoughts and tools which, altogether, tend to confuse the legislator and the formulator of economic policy as well as the executing body.

"We should deal with all these changes very seriously and in a different mentality that relies on economic, financial and social planning to build a long-term and comprehensive national programme in light of peace dividends expected in the Mideast," he

He said he personally sees Jordan's future prosperity in the services sector. By putting greater emphasis on areas like medical services and education, he said, Jordan can become an excellent base and centre for those services, as well as others, in the region and in the Arab World.

Following his speech, Mr. Masri repsonded to questions from the audience which sought to open a dialogue over the sales tax being debated in Parliament.

Mr. Masri told the businessmen that the sales tax was, undoubtedly, a controversial issue, but he assured them that the Economic and Finance Committee of the Lower House had done a deep and thorough examination of the tax proposal and had only submitted its recommendations after intensive consultations with known experts and concerned parties.

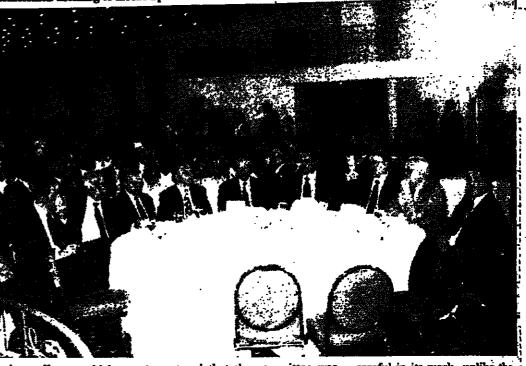
He denied that deputies were rushing or rubberstamping the tax proposal, pointing out that they are still debating it very actively and seriously

The gathering, however, en-ded in a heated exchange between Mr. Masri and Ali Abul Ragheb (chairman of the Lower House Economic and Finance Committee) on one hand and Mohammad Saleh Hourani, director-general of the Social Security Corporation and former deputy gov-ernor of the Central Bank of Jordan, on the other.

The row erupted when Mr. Hourani said that the deputies cannot accurately judge sensitive and highly sophisticated financial or economic issues even with outside consultations. Mr. Masri told Mr. Hourani that this remark was originally his own and that



en listening to House Speaker Taher Al Masri



serious effort would be made to have the best expertise available to the House. Mr. Abul Ragheb, who was

among the audience, coun-

careful in its work, unlike the tered that the committee was Central Bank which had to very keen to conduct thorough spend over JD240 million of and comprehensive studies over any subject referred to it taxpayer money as a result of and was very cautious and the Petra Bank collapse.

Markets

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Currence

Telecommunications deregulation and privatisation around the globe continue to fuel investment opportunities for U.S. Regional Ball Companies (RBOCS), cellular operators and

indicates U.S. participation in 87 overseas cellular licenses,

tipping the scales at 56% of their total (net) global cellular Milliconnation largest global citizen with 19 licenses and 166 mil. net page. Terent transactions include the sale of its 50%

held Chillian rightern and ward of licenses in Tanzania and three cities in Russia. Runner-un Bellsouth has 12 international licenses to its credit with which net pops worldwide. Whereas Millicom is

Bell Atlande expanded its international reach last year by acquiring a 23% stake in Mexico's Grupo Iusacell. BA's grasp on the internal ral market could nearly double if it increases the Iusace's a street to 46%. Strategie de le expansion can generate significant cash flow

rapid rations are investment have created a very competitive franchis no comate - Bell Atlantic, Bellsouth, Cellular Comm. Min on and Pactel are all vying for Italy's and GSM license. : i.e. init. pop prize. At in the RESOCS are still struggling to expand into long

distance and sideo dialtone services; cellular companies face new companies total from EMSR operators and increased compared famorrow from PCS operators. Dra the strength of their domestic experience.

teleconic spens to diversify their balance sheets with multiple

other telecum enterprises.

A current snapshot of the international cellular landscape Including corrustic markets, the companies listed below lay claim to \$2000 mill, net pops, with their international portfolios

an internation in pure-play, 57% of Bellsouth's pops are in the U.S. market. See E. Pactel and U.S. West fill out the top five.

growth and quick payback of invested capital — all U.S. West's growing some C.F. positive in 18-24 months. Such

international actionar franchises have allowed these global

U.S. cellular players worldwide reach

				101		
Ca. -	Gross POP (Mil)	Net POP (MH)	No. LIC	Grees POP (Mil)	Net POP (Mil)	Net POP (Mil)
Millicem	330.0	165.9	19	0.0	0.0	165.9
Bell South	297.4	52.0	12	46.7	39.3	91.3
GIE	124.2	18.8	6	49.1	50.4	69.2
Pactel	· 173.8	39.2	6	30.8	26.6	65.8
U.S. West	158.4	43.5	8	22.1	18.1	61.6
McCaw	21.5	2.7	5	48.9	49.0	51.7
Bell Atlantic	81.1	16.1	7	31.5	35.2	51.3
S.W. Bell	85.1	8.5	9	38.4	34.7	43.2
Ameri-Tech.	45.8	11.3	3	25.3	21.5	32.7
NYNEX	84.0	4.2	4	28.9	20.4	24.6
Schelle ceh	16.0	8.0	1	0.0	0.0	8.0
Associated	7.2	2.2	1	3.2	3.6	5.8
Motorola	23.3	4.0	4	0.0	0.0	4.0
Celicomm Int'l	5. 7	2.9	1	0.0	0.0	2.9
AT&T	22.0	2.2	1	0.0	0.0	2.2
Total	1,385.5	381.4	87	324.9	298.9	680.3

Associated, Bell Atlantic, GTE, McGan Report Gross Pops on control basis, note required to the proportionate basis. GTE includes 90% of contel cellural. McGaw and Pactel include 50/50 J.V. Martets. NYNEX includes 50% of Rochester Tet. JV. (1994 Ragan World Media, Ltd. Analysis of Co. Data)

deposit guarantee bodies ABU DHABI (R) - The headquarters in Abu Dhabai.

Arab countries study

Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab World's main financial institution, is working with banking authorities in Arab countries to set up deposit guarantee systems, an official Arab report said.

The AMF report said in its annual report on Arab economies that Arab countries have taken other steps to strengthen their banking sectors after being hit by a number of "challenges" since the late 1980s, including bad debts. ____

"In the framework of strengthening confidence in Arab banking institutions, monetary authorities in some of the Arab countries are studying with the cooperation of the AMF the advantages of setting up national institutions to guaran-

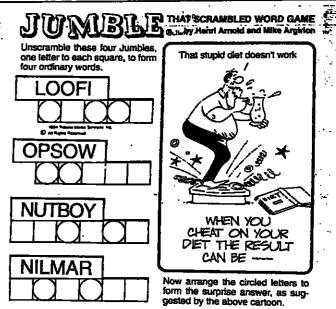
tee deposits," the report said...
The AMF released its annual report on Arab economies this month in Cairo and distributed it this week at AMF

The report said Lebanon and Jordan have a system to guarantee deposits and Egypt has passed a law to set one up.

"Other Arab countries have resolved to proceed in the same direction," said the report, which also covered the six Arab Gulf states, Algeria, Tunisia, Djibouti, Sudan, Syria, Morocco, Libya, Yemen and Mauritania.

It said capital and reserves at the end of 1992 in 236 banks in those countries, not including Syria and Lebanon, stood at \$21.7 billion and total assets at \$312.9 billion. Deposits in Arab banks grew by about 30 per cent by the end of 1991. The AMF said banking au-

thorities have completed steps to guide Arabs banks to strengthen their capital bases with regard to maintaining eight per cent capital adequacy - the ratio between shareholers' equity and assets.



Answer here: 44

Yesterday's Jumbles: RODEO TASTY COMPLY NUDISM Answer: How the loggers left the forest --STUMPED

market appartunities.



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

Daytime finds you with considerable ingenuity for handing what-ever problems have roosted on your door step but be careful with deceptive influences that are in effect this evening.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your creativity is high today and you can get much accomplished. Be careful in motion and avoid possible accident while on the highway.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to establish harmony at home early in the day, but don't permit an outsider to spoil it later for you or your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure to follow your hunches which are accurate now. You get fine assistance from a good friend during the daytime for your success. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go ahead with plans you

and add to present abundance. Be wise in expenditures. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Pursue personal aims you have early in the day and get excellent results. Express happiness with family members at home or

have concerning monetary affairs

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Schedule your activities for the future with the assistance

GENERAL TENDENCIES: of an expert. Then handle important tasks at hand which must be

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good day to do favours for friends and to expect the same from them. Be alert to benefits coming your way at this

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Bring your finest talents to the attention of higherups who can help you put them across. Then handle more personal matter at once. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22

to December 21) Contact those who can assist you with new aspirations you have. Go to the right sources for the date you need on a project.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Show proper respect for those you do business with and get the results you want. Be more active and you win out in the long run.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get in touch with key associates and clear up any derstandings. Try to be less critical of others and you will be respected.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The planets are not favourable for advancement now, so relax and don't jeopardize the good results of recent days.

THE Daily Crossword by Charles R. Wooderd sensory organis 5 Fall bloomer 10 Ed.'s request 14 Cruising 15 Car dealer offering 16 Court proceedings 17 Long lost 19th Century painting? 20 Honors 21 Mortgages 22 Stopowers 23 Blueprint 25 Grown-ups 28 Den 29 Normal: abbr, 32 Tress 33 Actress Gaynor 34 Regatta item 35 Long lost James Dean film? 9 Sta. notation 40 Buenos — 41 Disciples; suff, 42 Abel to Adam 43 Consumer A2 Abbeit D Adam 43 Consumer 44 Fings 46 God of war 47 Encircle 48 Mountain ridge 51 Fireplace accessory 54 Long lost Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

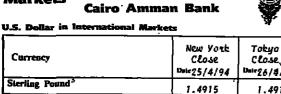


1 Handle rudely
2 Tennis: Arthur
3 Garlands
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9 Frodbyl off 49 Terza — 52 Aroma 50 Wicked 53 Luncht 51 Buy — in a poke 55 Chatter

secessory
54 Long lost
Beckett play?
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59 Varnish resin
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Markets	

Jordan Times



1,353,956

Сигтевсу	Close Date 25/4/94	CLOSE Date 26/4/94
Sterling Pound	1.4915	1.4910
Deutsche Mark	1.6798	1.6810
Swiss Franc .	1.4335	1.4360
French Franc	5.7655	5.7757**
Japanese Yen	103.05	103.11
European Curreny Unit	1.1490	1.1475**
USD Fer STG	-	

Swedish Krona

Italian Lira^e

Belgian Franc

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 26/4/1994			
Сигтенсу	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	3.6300	3.9400	4.3800	5.0000	
Sterling Pound	4.8800	4.9400	5.1300	5.4400	
Deutsche Mark	5.2500	5.1900	5.1300	5.4400	
Swiss Franc	3.7500	3.7500	3 .7500	3.8100	
French Franc	5.7500	5.7500	5.6900	5.6900	
Japanese Yen	2.0600	2.0600	2.1900	2.4400	
European Currency Unit	5.8100	5.8100	5.8000	5.8100	

Precions A	Precious Metals .				/4/199A
Metal	USD/O2	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	373.90	7.45	Silver	5.14	0.113
* 21 V					

Gentral Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/4		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7030
Sterling Pound	1.0433	1.0485
Deutsche Mark	0.4161	0.4182
Swiss Franc	Ū.4872	0.4896
French Franc	0.1213	0.1219
Japanese. Yen ^a	0.6784	0.6818
Dutch Guilder	0.3703	0.3722

0.0435

0.0437

141 144				
Other Currencles	. Date	Date: 26/4/1994		
Сигтелсу	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Diper	1.8400	1.8560		
Lebanese Lira ^c	0.040415	0.041825		
Saudi Riyal	0.1866	0.1883		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3600		
Qatari Riyal	0.1903	0.1912		
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100		
Omani Riyal	1.8020	1.8170		
UAE Dirbans	0.1903	0.1912		
Greek Drachma°	0.2645	0.3055		
Cypriot Pound	1.2725	1.3850		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession

on the London For	eign Exchange and	d bullion markets Tue
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3770/80	Canadian dollar
	1.6838/48	Deutschemarks
	1.8940/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4386/96	Swiss francs
	34.66/70	Belgian francs
	5.7770/20	French francs
Ų.	1609.6/1.1	Italian lire
()	103.04/14	Japanese yen
	7.8450/50	Swedish crowns
	7.3070/20	Norwegian crowns
	6.6050/00	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4892/02	

\$373.30/373.80

One ounce of gold

French firm displays products in Jordan

tail," Mr. Merheje told the

The exhibition, he said, "is

intended to show the (com-

pany's) commitment to the

Middle East in general and

Jordan in particular which it

views as the potential tech-

nological hub of the Arab

Among the activities of

Groupe Bull are all fields of

information technology. It

claims credit for inventing the

first-ever personal computer

and the development of smart

card, which is now replacing

magnetic credit cards, phone

cards and other usage cards.

will soon announce the first-

ever symetric multiprocessor

based on the Power PC tech-

nology which it has helped

develop in partnership with In-

ternational Business Machines

(IBM), Apple and Motorola,

said a Groupe Bull press re-

The company's hardware

products range from Zenith

Data Systems, which are pro-

In addition, the company

Jordan Times.

Levant countries."

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A major French company in information technology is holding an exhibition here for the first time, with hopes that the Jordanian market offers enough scope and room for their wares.

The exhibition by Bull Middle East, the regional arm of Groupe Bull, was opened by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at the Forte Grand Hotel on Monday. Visitors on Monday were limited to invited guests, but the exhibition was open for the public on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Among the products on display are computers with advanced technology and laser printers, scanners and what Groupe Bull describes as the smallest automatic teller

Alain Merheje, communication manager for the group, said Bull Middle East Limited was working with a local company, Petra Systems, for the past one year and was convinced that the Jordanian market offers enough room for its products and hence its interest in organising an exhibition in

duced in the U.S., laptop and The exhibition offers "many desktop computers as well as high-end mainframe computechnical novelties never seen before in Jordan and in fields as diverse as banking and re-

Groupe Bull takes special pride in its ATMs, Mr. Merheje said.

The Bull ATMs are designed to reduce the cost of cash dispensing and installation while complying with international rules and standards, and increasing operational profits.

Unlike the cumbersome big machines found at many banks, the Bull ATM is not bigger than a bedside table and is light enough to be carried by two people.

It could be located almost anywhere, in remote locations, where low turnover does not justify a full-sized ATM, supermarkets, hotel lobbies, shopping malls, airports, hospitals, petrol stations etc., the company says, adding that one of the first purchasers of the machines was an Omani client.

"This little wonder is the smallest cost-efficient ATM in the world and the nearest thing to customer-minded design the ATM business has ever seen' that is how the company described the product.

Foreign trade boom provides windfall for China's insurers

BELJING (AFP) — China's insurance companies are cashing in on the country's foreign trade boom which has sparked a dramatic rise in overseas-related premiums, the China Daily business weekly said Sunday.

The People's Insurance Company of China (PICC), the country's largest underwriter, took in \$732 million in foreign-related premiums last year, a rise of almost 30 per cent on 1992.

According to Shi Guoqing, deputy general manager of international department. China's economic growth is providing the insurance sector with a "golden opportunity" for rapid expan-

Of all foreign-related coverage, avaiation posted the largest increase last year, with premium revenue soaring 106 per cent from 1992 on the back of rapid expansion in the domestic airline industry.

However, Mr. Shi warned that growth may slow later this year as a result of the unification of China's two-tier exchange rate system and sweeping reforms of the tax and foreign trade systems.

Chinese insurers are also preparing for the end of their virtual monopoly on the domestic market which would come with China's planned

adherence to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) signed earlier

"Many foreign insurance giants have eyed the huge Chinese market for a long time," Mr. Shi said. He added that he would welcome foreign involvement "since it would bring not only competition, but also advanced management and techniques.'

China has so far refused to bow to foreign pressure — especially from the United States — to open up its insurance market, but GATT reentry, which China hopes to achieve by the end of this year, would leave it no choice.

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Tunisia's tourism earnings hit record

TUNIS (R) - Tunisia earned a record \$1.1 billion from tourism in 1993 and is forecasting an increase of about 11 per cent this year, Tourism Minister Mohammad Jegham said on Tuesday.

"This is thanks to Tunisia's stability, security and quietness while there are troubles in other Mediterranean competing countries," he told Reuters in an interview.

He said economic recovery in Europe, Tunisia's main market, a diversification policy and a new breed of private-sector entrepreneur were factors behind the boom.

Tunisia's hundreds of beach hotels with a total of 150,000 beds, museums containing what is believed to be the world's best collection of mosaics, and souks are swarming with visitors - mainly German and French.

In 1993 there were 3.6 million tourists, 3.3 per cent per cent more than in 1992, although the numbers from neighbouring Libya and Algeria dropping by 16 per cent each because of economic problems in those countries.

"We expect four million tourists this year, of which about 80,000 to 90,000 (Erzopeans) will be diverted from other competing destinations like Turkey," Mr. Jegham

"In 1993 there were 2.2 million European visitors, an increase of about 17 per cent compared to 1992. During the first quarter of 1994 the number of European visitors increased by 30 per cent," he

added. "We have an important place in the German market where we have a very big increase. We are now the third destination for German tourists after Spain and Greece.'

Tourism revenue, one of the main pillars of Tunisia's economy along with textile and phosphate exports, totalled \$945 million in 1992 and \$1.13 billion in 1993.

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Islamic banking market hinges sophistication, a Kuwaiti banker has said.

"As the industry competes, being more sophisticated. Investor (TII).

day a monopoly in most mar-kets," he said. "But Islamic banking grows as the wealth of the middle class grows. And competition, and the passage of time, are making Islamic products more interesting."

TII is aiming for 50 per cent profit growth in 1994. It made net profit of 1,957 million dinars (\$6.59 million) in 1993.

The company calls itself the world's first non-retail Islamic investment and corporate finance house. It conducts private banking and wholesale investment banking for wealthy individuals and on the corporate finance side taps Islamic funds for business projects in the Middle East and Islamic World.

"Increasingly what will bring Sheikh Al Bahar said.

Kuwait Islamic bank sees more competition

KUWAIT (R) - Success in the growing multibillion dollar increasingly on technical

it will attract more clients by said Adnan Al Bahar, chairman of one-year-old Islamic finance firm, The International

The variety of business conducted by TII in its first year of operation was evidence of growing demand for Islamic investment and corporate financing, he said in an inter-

"Islamic banking is still to-

"The customers who insist on investing 100 per cent Islamically are already taken care of. Others will invest Islamically if the products are good enough," he pointed out:

Islamic finance institutions such as TII say they conform with the Islamic ban on charging interest by applying a range of asset management techniques that involve specially designed trading, leasing and profit-sharing transactions.

in business is competition. As they acquire wealth, people are wanting investment institutions to invest Islamically,

Banks in Islamic regions in turn sought to attract funds

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with high-yielding Islamic products to take a slice of a global market worth tens of billions of dollars, Sheikh Al Bahar said.

Sheikh Al Bahar estimated Islamic finance institutions globally about \$30 billion to \$50 billion in assets under manage-

This could rise to \$80 billion to \$100 billion by the end of the century, he said.

He estimated that in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, the region's Islamic bnaks could raise their share of total private assets under bank management to around 50 per cent by the year 2000 from 10 io 15 per cent at present.

He added some competition was coming from Western banks which has devised what they called Islamic products. Moslim investors are saying

why invest in traditional markets if I can get the same returns from Islamic banking and sleep more comfortably at night," Sheikh Al Bahar said.

On the investment side, TII has launched an \$86 million U.S. property fund, a \$23 million currency fund, two short term investment funds in dinars and dollars worth a total \$60 million and a medium term leasing investment fund worth \$40 million.

In corporate finance, TII has arranged aircraft leasing worth 143 million dinars (\$481 million) for state-owned Kuwait Airways Corporation, is an adviser and underwriter for U.S. firm Wing Group on a \$700 million project to rebuild Kuwait's Shuaiba north power. station and is raising \$10 million for Britain's Cable and Wireless and a group of Egyptian investors for a mobile telephone company joint venture in Egypt. It has established a financial

services company in Switzerland, opened a London representative office, and launched a property management company in Britain in association with British property consultants DTZ Debenham Thorpe.

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Jordan

Times

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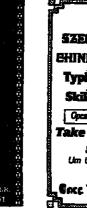








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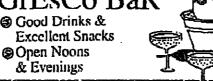






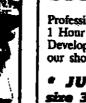


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PARIS (AFP) — French

fashion designer Pierre Cardin

has left for India to open Gu-din shops in Bombay, New

Delhi and Calcutta, sources

close to the company said

Tuesday. Cardin plans to open

about 40 shops in India by 1995

through his firm Pierre Cardin

Fashions Private Limited. It is

the Indian market. Cardin left

Paris Monday. The company

has signed contracts with the

French government covering

textiles, ready-to-wear clothing

and perfume. Fashion shows are to be held in New Delhi on

May 2 and in Bombay on May

4. Pierre Cardin has visited

India many times during the

last 30 years. "I went to India

when there was no business to

be done. Time has proved me

right," he said. Cardin was also

to visit Beijing for the second international clothing and

accessories fair known as

'Chic 94" from April 27 to

May 1 where he was to present

cotton tropical clothing for

men and women. Cardin has

signed more than 25 contrats

the first French fashion house keed for a let

to establish such a presente in portels in the Indian market Charles in portels in the Indian market Charles in the Indian market Ch

New Japanese premier faces prospect of weak, minority rule

TOKYO (R) - New Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata faced the unsettling prospect Tuesday of minority rule and possible early elections after the biggest party in the ruling coalition walked out in disgust.

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Months of policy battles and a power struggle finally took their toll on the weak eightmonth alliance, which only barely mustered the votes to install Mr. Hata as prime

minister Monday.

By Tuesday the Socialist
Party had quit in protest at what it saw as an attempt by the coalition's conservatives to freeze it out of policy-making. Without the Socialists, Mr.

Hata will have to settle for forming Japan's first minority government since 1948, a development which is likely further to delay legislation and hasten general elections, not normally due until summer

"We're in for more weak leadership because of what's happened," said Takeshi Sasaki, a Tokyo University politics professor. "It'll be difficult to avoid an early election."

Mr. Hata, who has yet to form a cabinet, decided to make a last-ditch attempt to woo back the Societies by seeking a meeting with their leader, Tomiichi Murayama.

"The main aim of the meeting will be to maintain the coalition's unity," cabinet office spokesman Nobuo Ishihara told reporters. He said nothing had yet been scheduled and a Socialist Party spokesman said it was not certain the meeting would take place.

Hirotaka Akamatsu, former Socialist secretary-general, ruled out the possibility of his party returning to a coalition dominated by Mr. Hata's chief ally, backroom fixer Ichiro

The crisis followed weeks of bitter feuding over coalition policy between Socialists and

The warring factions buried

16 shot, 1 dead, in N. Ireland

drive Britain from the province.

BELFAST (R) - One man was killed and sixteeen men were

shot in the legs in what appeared to be a wave of IRA punishment attacks overnight, police said Tuesday. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility for the death

of a man whose body was found in mainly Catholic West

Belfast. He had been shot in the head and the IRA accused

him of drug trafficking in a call to a local newspaper. Sixteen

wounds to their legs typical of IRA "kneecapping" punishments, police said. They said the shootings had all the

hallmarks of the IRA's punishment of wayward youths,

suspected criminals or informers. The reasons for the attacks

were not clear. They follow an unprecedented police crack-

down on IRA fund-raising in Britain, Ireland and Northern

Ireland last week. Police said they seized documents, stolen

property, cash and computers in the raid as well as quantities of drugs linked to fund-raising in the IRA's 25-year campaign to

Khmer Rouge shell Cambodian town

SISOPHON, Cambodia (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas shelled the central market in the border town of Poipet in

Cambodia's northwestern Banteay Meanchey province, refugees from the town said Tuesday. The guerrillas shelled the

town, which lies on the Thai-Cambodian border, early Tuesday and several rounds landed in the market area forcing

some 100 civilians to flee to Sisophon, 48 kilometres (30 miles) east. There were no reports of casualties. Meanwhile a

minister said Tuesday Cambodian leaders want United Na-

tions military liason officers to monitor infringements of the

country's borders. The request was made by Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen during a recent

meeting with U.N. representative Benny Widyono, Deputy Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said. The meeting

followed accusations that Thailand assisted Khmer Rouge

guerrillas recapture their headquarters at Pailin in northwest Cambodia. But the co-premiers did not explicitly ask for the

border with Thailand to be monitored, a U.N. official added.

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's parliament has extended a

special session to try to resolve the dispute over its approval of

a new premier, parliamentary officials said Tuesday. "The parliament called a general meeting at 11.30 p.m. (1430 GMT) last night and agreed to continue the current special par-

liamentary session until Thursday," a parliamentary official

said. The session of the unicameral parliament was originally due to end Monday. Presidential aides had indicated that

President Kim Young-Sam was preparing another cabinet shake-up. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the

main opposition Democratic Party (DP) have been haggling

over parliamentary approval of Lee Yung-Dug, who was in

charge of formulating policies about North Korea, as the new

premier. Mr. Kim named Lee Yung-Dug Friday to replace

Lee Hoi-Chang, who had stepped down as premier earlier in the day after a shock eruption of differences over the scope of

Clinton urges ban on assault weapons

WASHINGTON (R) - President Bill Clinton made a strong

plea to the public and Congress to ban 19 types of semi-

automatic weapons as part of a crime bill. "The weapons of

choice for drug traffickers, gang members and paramilitary

extremist groups are these assault weapons," Mr. Clinton said

at a White House ceremony honouring crime victims. "I want

to ask the law-abiding citizens of this country to tell Congress

that it's okay to vote for this and take these kinds of weapons

off our streets. I think the American people have a right to be

safe and secure. How can we pursue life, liberty and the

pursuit of happiness if we don't have the most elemental

security?" Last November, the Senate passed a ban on

semi-automatic weapons as part of its crime bill. A similar bill,

passed by the House of Representatives last week, did not

include the ban, so the issue will have to be resolved by a

House-Senate Conference Committee or in separate legisla-

the prime minister's power.

S. Korea extends parliament session

ed between 20 and 30 were in hospital with gunshot



Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Tomiichi Murayama announces that his party will leave the coalition government following the sudden emergence of a rival bloc, at a press conference at the SDP headquarters (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

parliamentary group.
The Socialists and some cen-

trist parties want to see the

emergence of a true multi-

party system, a balance of con-

servatives, liberals and leftists.

both came from the LDP's

right-wing. They were proteges

of party kingmaker Shin Kane-

maru, who wielded immense

power as Japan's backstage

After he was toppled by a corruption scam, Mr. Ozawa

and Mr. Hata led a group of dissidents out of the LDP in

1993 and launched the Shin-

seito (Renewal Party) now

create a new party and expect

us to stay in the coalition?

said Socialist lawmaker Hide-

The Socialists hold 74 seats

tion. Mr. Clinton said if the House could pass the ban quickly,

it could be included in the final version of the crime bill. But

he told reporters he was not certain the House would agree.

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul

Rahman was sworn in Tuesday as Malaysia's king for the next

five years in pomp and ceremony under the country's unique

rotating monarchy. The keeper of the rulers' seal administered

the oath of office to King Jaafar in the throne room of the state

palace before his fellow sultans and Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohammad's cabinet. Mr. Mahathir then presented him with

a proclamation declaring him king. King Jaafar, dressed in a

yellow suit cut in the style of his home state of Negri Sembilan and wearing a bejewlled golden head-dress, signed and sealed

the document at a conference table in front of a huge golden

throne. Malaysia's nine hereditary sultans take turns every five

years at being the Yang Di-Pertnan Agong, or supreme sovereign, under a rotating constitutional monarchy established on independence from Britain in 1957. King Jaafar, 71, a former diplomat is the 10th sovereign of Malaysia. His

father. Abdul Rahman Mohammad, was the first, but died a

BEIJING (R) — China has suddenly postponed the trial,

originally set for this week, of 14 dissidents who have been held on grave charges of counterrevolution for nearly two years, family members said Tuesday. They said they had originally been informed the trial would be held from Monday

through Wednesday, but their lawyers had later been told the

date had been changed to an unspecified time. A spokes-woman for the Beijing Intermediate Court said the case of the 14, the largest batch of political dissidents to face trial in China

since the prosecutions related to the 1989 Tiananmen Square

demonstrations, was still in the pre-trial stage. She said by

telephone it was difficult to say when the formal court session

would be held. The postponement of the trial comes at a

sensitive time for China, which is in the midst of a dispute with

the United States over the link between human rights and

Moldova signals breakthrough on Dnestr issue

KISHINYOV (R) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has announced a breakthrough in the intractable separatist conflict

over the Dnestr region and said peace talks would begin soon.

Snegur said groups of experts from the Moldovan and Duestr

sides would negotiate under Russian and CSCE (Conference

on Security and Cooperation in Europe) mediation. "We are

speaking about a compromise now. The time when we wanted to solve this problem from a position of obstinacy has passed,"

Mr. Snegur said on television late Monday. Officials in the

self-styled Dnestr Republic, a Slav-populated industrial region

of the mainly Romanian-speaking country, confirmed the

breakthrough. "It is very likely that very soon we will have a

real negotiating process under way on the political status of

our region," Yelena Yesimova, spokeswoman for Igor Smir-nov, president of the Dnestr Republic, told Reuters.

MANAGUA (AFP) - General Humberto Ortega has

announced that he would step down as Nicaragua's army chief,

potentially defusing the government's crippling internal power

struggle. Gen. Ortega, the brother of former leftist Sandinista

president and opposition leader Daniel Ortega, did not give a

date for his departure but said President Violeta Chamorro

had accepted his resignation. He added that the terms of his

resignation were included in military reform legislation to be

put before the National Assembly in a matter of days. Gen.

Ortega has made Mrs. Chamorro the target of bitter criticism

from her political opponents. Mrs. Chamorro had argued that

keeping Gen. Ortega at the belm of the military was a key part

of political fence-mending after the country's civil war, but then announced last year — without consulting Gen. Ortega

- that he would be out of the post in 1994. "While the road is

a difficult one, I will not abandon my struggle for democracy,"

Gen. Ortega said, adding that that commitment was "stronger

Nicaraguan army chief to bow out

China postpones trial of dissidents

short time after ascending the throne.

Malaysia swears in a new king-

"How can they scheme to

dominating the coalition.

political boss.

Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata

the hatchet Friday and settled on Mr. Hata for prime minister, only for tensions to flare again Monday just as he began

work on forming a cabinet.

The trigger was the sudden announcement by Mr. Ozawa's group of the formation of a coalition parliamentary bloc called Kaishin (Reformation), excluding the Socialists who were not even consulted in

The Socialist pullout now threatens to prolong a paralysis of government. Apart from the budget, the deadlock has blocked progress in solving U.S.-Japan trade disputes.

At the root of the crisis is widespread resentment of Mr. Ozawa and his plans to create a new conservative party to compete against the oncedominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), still the biggest

in the 511-strong lower house. Without them, Mr. Hata has 187 seats compared to the LDP's 206.

LDP chief Yohei Kono raised the possibility of cooperating with the Socialists in parliament, a development that could set the stage for a noconfidence vote against the Hata government.

"What's happened to the Socialists is wrong... I think we'll be able to talk with them," he told reporters.

Banri Kaieda, a lawmaker who has joined the new bloc,said Mr. Ozawa's aim was to force the break-up of both the Socialists and the LDP, twin pillars of Japan's cold war-era

system.
"We're going to see many things unfold as a result of what's happened," he said. "The Socialists and the LDP are not united internally and they could begin unravelling."

Meanwhile, cabinet office

spokesman Ishihara urged Mr. Hata to name his cabinet by Thursday so that government business could proceed smoothly. Japan starts a 10-day

holiday from Friday. Meanwhile, South Korea's defence minister arrived in Japan Tuesday for talks with his Japanese counterpart but it was not immediately clear who this would be.

Japan's cabinet resigned Monday and hopes of quickly forming a new one were dashed after the Socialists announced they were walking

A defence agency spokes-man said he did not know who South Korean Minister Rhee Byoung-Tea would meet for talks scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

"We can't be sure yet," he said. "If there's a new cabinet by then, he'll meet the new

If not, he said, Mr. Rhee would probably meet Kazuo Aichi, the defence chief who resigned Monday.

Shaky truce holds in Rwandan capital

NAIROBI (AP) - A shaky ceasefire marred by brief, heavy mortar exchanges was holding in the Rwandan capital Tuesday, but militias continued their killing spree in the countryside.

United Nations spokesman Abdul Kabia in Kigali, the capital, said mortar rounds exploded near U.N. headquarters in the city and at the National Stadium where thousands of people remain under U.N. protection. There were no casualties.

The Hutu-run government army and the mostly Tutsi rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) also waged a brief but heavy mortar and small arms duel in the city centre Tuesday morning, he said in a telephone interview. Mr. Kabia said while the

capital remained relatively quiet, the ethnic slaughter continued in governmentcontrolled areas, particularly near Butare in southern Rwan-

"The massacres are still going on, most in the southern part of the country. The northern and eastern part of the

country is almost completely controlled by the RPF and we have not heard of any massacres there," Mr. Kabia said.

Relief workers estimate 100,000 people have been killed since the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, were killed in a suspicious plane crash April 6.

The deaths triggered new bloodletting between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi ethnic groups and reignited Rwanda's civil war after a nine-month truce.

Both the government and the rebels declared unilateral ceasefires Monday, and Mr. Kabia said the United Nations delivered a terse, eightparagraph proposed ceasefire agreement to both sides Tuesday morning. There was no immediate response to the U.N. proposal.

Mr. Kabia said the rebel ceasefire declaration included conditions that must be met within 96 hours of its beginning at midnight Monday.
"Within 96 hours the gov-

ernment forces must stop all the killings and acts of violence in areas under their control,"

The conditions also included a complete observance of the ceasefire, joint control of the Kigali Airport and the establishment of safe corridors for delivering humanitarian aid, Mr. Kabia said.

A U.N. source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no indication the army was doing anything to stop the ethnic massacres in areas under government con-

The government said the killings are being carried out by militias it cannot control and has called for joint patrols by the army and the rebels to stop the killings, the source "The militias have been on a

rampage throughout the country and are operating basically in areas controlled by the government forces. So there is the impression of connivance by government forces," the source said. The source, with access to

military reports, said the rebels control the centre of Kigali and the north and northeast of the

1944 beef dusted down to welcome

with China.

D-Day vets 🛴 VERDUN, France (AFP) _ A French couple are planning to serve up a treat for veterans flocking to Normandy for June's D-Day commemorations -- corned beef canned at the time of the allied landings. The couple from the eastern Meuse region discovered the tins - apparently unpractured - on top of a cupboard in an attic cleared after the death of the woman's sister. They have now offered the beef, along with a container of powdered toothpaste, water purification tablets and a U.S. flag used to welcome the liberating American troops, to be displayed at the peace memorial in Caen, Normandy, during the 50th-anniversary celebrations.

Group ready to start production of RU-486 carbon

NEW YORK (AP) - An abortion rights group has signed an agreement with an unidentified overseas manufacturer to produce a generic equivalent of the RU-486 abortion pill. The duplicate drug could be ready for human trials by the end of this year, said Lawrence Lader, president of Abortion Rights Mobilisation (ARM). Abortion opponents have fought to keep RU-48. out of the United States, obsurgical abortion, ARM announced in April 1993 that its researchers had duplicated the drug. The organisation spent the last year raising money, finding a manufacturer and consulting with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Mr. Lader said. The agreement with the manufacturer, which Mr. Lader refused to identify, was signed last week. "We hope to have dosages for testing ready in five to six months," Mr. Lader said. "The animal tests should be two months later, then the FDA is supposed to make a decision within a month, and with luck, we'll begin human testing by the end of the year."
RU-486's manufacturer, Roussel-Uclaf of France be-

Movie popcorn added to list of fatty foods

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Americans have been told to Americans have been told to give up hamburgers, ice cream and other fatty foods in favour of fruits and vegetables. Now movie-house popcorn is on the health hit list. The Centre for Science in the Public Interest.

Washington think tank, sent a Washington think tank; sent the a Washington think tank, sent samples of popcorn from movie theatres to laboratories and discovered that the average bag is packed with calories and fat. The problem is that most theatres use coconut oil to pop their popcorn, rather than air-popping it or using canola oil. A 16-cup bucket of popcorn made with coconut oil and offer made with coconut popeorn made with coconut oil had 901 calories and twice the daily limit of fat. The buttered popcom is even worse — with four days worth of 1st in - single bag. The contro pass 100 01 140 inovie patrons who cannot pass the population of up popeors to pop their variations and sneak it into the movies. But one theatre-owner de But one theatre-owner of the but of the use of coconut of the but of the b "Most people ask us why can't get their home popcorn to taste as good as theaupopcorn. The answer is cocopopcorn. The answer is cocoman, executive vice president for marketing for Cineples

Salvador president-elect meets opposition forms, an overhaul of the corguerrilla leader Schafik Hand-SAN SALVADOR (R) --- The

winner of El Salvador's first postwar presidential election, Armando Calderon Sol, held talks Monday with left-wing opponents to assure stability

process alive. Fresh from his strong victory in Sunday's runoff election, the right-wing lawyer met defeated opposition candidate Ruben

Zamora and veteran former

and keep the country's peace

"I believe we could talk about the legislative priorities as an agenda for working together," Mr. Calderon Sol told reporters as he came out of the talks. "We need to search for levels of unity."

legislators were expected this week to approve changes paving the way for electoral re-

rupt judicial system and other reforms laid out in U.N.brokered peace accords that ended El Salvador's 12-year civil war two years ago. The three leaders, seeking to

return to a country sharply The parliament's outgoing polarised by a bitter election campaign, also discussed ways to resurrect the process of national reconciliation.

23 in raid on Haiti slum Soldiers kill Gonaives led the struggle to

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) -Soldiers massacred at least 23 fishermen and merchants in the west coast city of Gonaives, witnesses and human rights advocates said Monday. After raiding a stronghold of

ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the soldiers took to rowboats and fired indiscriminately on people getting fish, firewood and other supplies from the boats, the witnesses said. The attack took place Saturday but first reports emerged Monday. The killings come as

Washington has toughened its stance against the military, which has dominated Haiti since ousting the elected Aris-tide in a 1991 coup. Up to 3,000 people, many of them Aristide supporters, have been killed since in political violence.

The Clinton administration says it plans to tighten an economic embargo on Haiti to pressure the military to leave. The coup and embargo have combined to produce widespread suffering in the America's poorest nation, but the military has enriched itself by dominating a black market for fuel oil smuggled in from the neighbouring Dominican Re-

Residents and the pro-

Aristide Haitian Information Bureau said the attack began with a raid on the dusty, seaside slum of Raboteau in Gonaives, 170 kilometres (105 miles) north of the capital Port-Au-Prince. The witnesses gave this account: Soldiers saying they were

looking for armed Aristide partisans shot into the air. roused people from their beds and roughed them up. No one was killed or injured. However, the soldiers re-

turned hours later, at dawn Saturday, firing at embarking fishermen. They commandeered rowboats and hunted down fishermen and merchants bringing in goods.

The bodies washed ashore gradually: Three Saturday and

early Monday afternoon, said the witnesses speaking on condition of anonymity. By Monday, many Raboteau

at least 20 from Sunday to

residents had left their homes for fear of further attack. There was no immediate comment from state radio or

from the military." "I think this is a continuation of the effort to decapitate the democratic movement in Haiti," Ira Kurzban, the U.S. counsel for Mr. Aristide's gov-

topple the 29-year Duvalier family dictatorship in 1986, and the city was a stronghold of support for Mr. Aristide in his overwhelming electoral triumph in 1990. In recent months, however, the Raboteau slum has been a scene of struggle between Aris-

tide supporters and militants of a neo-Duvalierist paramilitary movement, the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH). Also Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard shipped back 98 Hai-

tian boat people who had been intercepted trying to flee their troubled homeland. U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley, Schrager said 18 of the refugees were detained by Hai tian authorities after being re-

Under a May 1992 White House order. Haitian boat people intercepted at sea are returned home without a check to determine whether they are fleeing economic devastation or political persecution.

The Clinton administration said the direct-return policy keeps more Haitians from risking their lives at sea; Aristide and his supporters say the repatriations violate international law and expose the refugees

Armenian grip on Karabakh falters as heavy fighting continues

ernment, told the Associated

Press from his office in Miami.

YEREVAN (AFP) — Heavy fighting around the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has seriously threatened the Karabakh-Armenian army's hold on the region, observers of the six-year-old conflict with Azerbaijan said here.

Karabakh forces face a more disciplined enemy that has dealt them severe blows in the past two weeks of clashes along all fronts, while few supplies of fuel and other material are coming through the tortuous Lachin corridor from Arme-

Morale has also been hit by Azerbaijani air raids on the enclave's capital of Stepanakert, including the alleged use of anti-personnel cluster. bombs.

The tired armed forces of the Armenian-populated enclave within Azerbaijan are also short of recruits. "I have been here for three

months — I don't know when I'll be able to rest," said an exhausted military surgeon at a field hospital in Agdam, a key town of the eastern flank

Few young men walk the streets of Stepanakert. The handful of Armenian volunteers who arrived each day on the bus from Yerevan are not enough to replace casualties. Losses of more than 200

dead and 1,000 wounded in the recent fighting, according to the estimate of a senior military source in Nagorno-Karabakh, have severely dented the 15,000 strong force, which was already very thinly spread along the front line at the time of Azerbaijan's January offensive.

But the powerful prime minister and head of the Karabakh National Defence Committee, Robert Kocharyan, slammed the CSCE negotiations and Russian diplomatic moves, saying they only in-creased the bloodshed.

The Karabakh authorities say the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force is the best means of enforcing any future peace agreement. But only Russia - viewed by both sides with deep suspi-

cion after its military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan at different stages of a war in which at least 20,000 people have died - has offered to send peacekeepers. And neither the Azerbaijamis nor the Karabakh Arme-

nians have budged from their respective negotiating positions. The former want the Armenians to withdraw their forces before any peacekeep-ers arrive, while the latter say the peacekeepers must come

The Armenians are still holding on but Azerbaijani President Gaidar Aliyev is pushing hard for a military success, mindful that all his predecessors fell as a result of military reverses in Karabakh.

On the ground, there is little spirit of compromise. According to an aid official in Stepanakert, both sides routinely shoot prisoners.

Drawing heavily on a cheap cigarette, the surgeon in Agdam said: "I think this war is not good for us or the Azeris .— but we are fighting for our

In earlier battles, the Karabakh army benefited from detailed knowledge of the mountainous territory, encircling and pounding Azerbaijani troops on difficult terrain. But its very successes which

captured huge swathes of Azerbaijan territory, linked the enclave up with Armenia and brought it to the Iranian border mean the eastern and southern fronts are now located on flat land, leaving the Karabakh army more vulnerable to artillery, tanks and jet fighters.

Aid workers who were near Fisuli on the southern front, the Karabakh army's weakest point, said they heard shells land continuously for several hours last week.

Wounded soldiers recently returned from the front speak of large waves of Azerbaijani troops used to storm Armenian positions

Azerbaijani resolve has been stiffened by mercenaries from Afghanistan who, the Karabakh-Armenians say, are strung out behind the front on the Azeri side with orders to shoot deserters.

The Armenians also claim multinational oil companies in-Baku have provided training and equipment for Azerbaijani forces in the hope of securing a multi-billion dollar oil conces-

The foreign minister of the enclave's government, Arkady Goukassian, said recent negotiations in Prague under the auspices of the Minsk group of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) were "constructive". Yamouk

gan negotiating a year ago to NORTH make the drug available in the United States for testing through the Population Council, an international research

2000 test, was Lijhdat o ne s This is the co-

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WITH OMAR & TANKAN De

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gaudin into galmont time. galle coults

1993 soccer championship to be | NBA survives without | ART tourney postponed remembered for setting records

Top seprer Jiryes Tadros

The JSF also considered as

final Al Faisali's 2-0 win over

Al Wihdat, and decided to

cancel the scheduled April 29

exhibition match between the

top two teams when Al Faisali

were to be officially crowned

in second place with 41 points

after winning only nine match-

es with a comparatively low

25-22 scoring record. Al

Wihdat last won the first divi-

sion title in 1991, and the cup

Al Wihdat faced the prob-

lem of a mutiny of veteran

players in the first leg of the

competition. However their

younger lineup of players

seemed to do better and man-

aged to sustain their team's

Al Hussein maintained their

top-three standing throughout

most of the season despite los-

ing to Al Baqaa, Sahab and Arabi in the final weeks.

Fourth-placed Al Qadissieh

will be remembered most for

being the best team throughout

most of the second leg before

losing 5-1 to Al Baqaa, and 3-2

lost most points in the second

Al Arabi finished in a half-

way position after drawing

with Al Wihdat and Al Qadis-

sieh, and defeating Al

Ahli in the second leg.

Ramtha, Al Hussein and Al

Al Ramtha upset their fans

57

winner's cup in 1992.

competitive form.

to Al Jazireh.

striker with 16 goals.

leg to finish fifth.

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Al Windat ended the season

the Kingdom's champions.

at JD 6,000-8,000.

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The recentlyconcluded 1993 soccer season will be one that will be remembered for setting quite a few : records in Jordanian sports' archives and record books.

While many teams will look upon it as a season that reflected their ambitions and efforts, the 1993 competition seemed merciless in ruling that four teams would be relegated to the second division. The victims were Al Baqaa, Fuheis, Sahab and Al Yarmouk.

At the other end of the standings, Al Faisali won their 25th division title with 57 . points in the overall standings, a record 16 points away from runners up Al Wihdat. The titleholders ended the

- season with a remarkable 51 goals, cancelling the previous record of 47 goals by Al Ramtha in 1981. Al Faisali also maintained

the most consistent form among the 12 competing teams, winning 17 of their 22 matches, drawing in only two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hus-The Kingdom's champions

also won the cup winners' cup and the Jordan Cup titles, leaving only the Federation Shield title to Al Ramtha. Al Faisali's star Jiryes Tad-

ros added another record to his ieam's achievements when he won the best striker award with 19 goals.

However, the sad violence

incidents on the final day of the 22-week-old competition which ended Friday will also be recorded as the worst in Jorda-

nian sports. Following Friday's scuffle between players from Al Wihdat and Al Faisali, and the unruly actions of the attending fans who ravaged the newlyrenovated Amman International Stadium, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) took a number of decisions to redress

the unsportsmanlike actions. Hence Al Faisali's Rateb Al Awadat, and Al Wihdat's Imad Al Zaghal were banned for life, while Al Wihdat's Jihad Abdul Munem, Samer Bahloz and Ali Mahmoud got a three-month suspension. A JD 1000 fine was imposed on Al Wibdat who will share with Al Faisali the cost of all dam-· ages to the stadium estimated

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Faisali

Wihdat

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Ahli

Arabi

Ramtha

Jazireh

Bagaa

Sahab

Fuheis

Yarmouk

Oadissieh

and only remained in the first division after their 2-1 win over

Al Ahli in their final match. The team lost its former form after their disappointing results at the Arab Club's Championship in Jeddah in November. Many players then deserted the team after rows with the coach and management. The club is therefore content with keeping its place

in the division. Al Jazireh made a strong comeback after defeating Al (armouk, Al Bagaa, Al Qadissieh and Al Ahli and drawing with Al Faisali and Al Hussein before surprisingly losing 4-3 to Sahab to finish

eighth. Among the relegated teams; Al Baqaa seems to be the one that could have just made it if Al Arabi, Al Kamtha or Al Oadissieh had different results in the final week.

Al Baqaa won the admiration of soccer fans with their unrelenting spirit and their vic-tories of 5-1 over Al Qadissieh, 2-0 over Al Hussein, 4-2 over Al Ramtha and draws with Al Ahli and Al Wihdat.

With the relegation of Al Baqaa, Sahab, Fuheis and Al Yarmouk, four new teams will join the 1994 competition. They are Al Karmel, Al Jeel. Shabab Al Hussein, and Kufr-

The top scorers of each team came as follows: Al Faisali

Jiryes Tadros (19), Firas Al Khalaileh (7), Jaafar Hamad ÀÍ Wihdat

Marwan Al Shamali (9), Hisham Abdul Mun'em (4). Al Hussein Aref Hussein (9), Mohammad Shweiter (6), Munib Ghar-

aibeh (5). Al Qadissieh Mustafa Adam (16), Ra'd Al Momani (8), Ismail Awadat

Their key player Mustafa Adam finished second as top Al Ahli Nart Yadaj (8), Amer Wali (6), Khalil Fataftah (5). Al Ahli were favoured to win second place before they Al Arabi became one of the teams that

Mohammad Al Alawneh (10), Ahmad Subh (6), Ayman Al Omari (5). Ai Ramtha Khaled Al Aqqouri (10), Bad-

ran Al Shaqran (7), Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib (4). Al Jazireh Murad Hasan (9), Tawfiq Saheb and Simon George (5), Riyad Azmi and Maher

Magharbeh (3) Riyad Diqs (7), Khaled Faleh (5), Ismail Jaramneh (3).

Mohammad Al Ashhab (10) Mohammad Odeh and Ghaleb Rami (4), Mohammad Abdul Rahman (3)

Fuheis Khader Mubarak and Wa'ed Suweis (7) Al Yannouk

Khaled Yousef (8), Mohammad Abu Taleb (5), Abdul Fattah Abbadi (3).

Olympic

admits

champion

to doping

BONN (R) — Former Olympic javelin champion Ruth Fuchs of East Germany admit-

ted Tuesday she took steroids

won the European cham-

anabolic steroid oral-turinabol

during tough winter power training from 1972 to 1980.

that other athletes were doing

505SR car. Duty unpaid.

bad conscience about it.

GOREN BRIDGE

2

FINAL STANDINGS

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

DON'T TRY FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

NORTH A A 9 4 3 V J 6 4 #82 EAST #K2 V9872 VJ1098 06543 #10763 #KJ5 SOUTH #QJ1077 V1057

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 *
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ∇
The Seabees proclaim that they
can do the impossible immediately.
Perhaps. But the prudent bridge
player will steer clear of the impossible in favor of some line that is more likely to bring home the bacon. With a dead minimum opening bid including an insufficiently guarded honor, nothing short of a jump shift was going to make South hid a second time. North's hand was not good enough for anything that West led the king, ace and queen of hearts, then shifted to the jack of diamonds. Since there was a sure club loser on the hand, declarer won the diamond in hand and ran the queen of trumps—down one "It was

queen of trumps—down one "It was a 50 percent ahot, partner," remarked South.
Declarer's mathematics were faulty. West, a passed hand, had already shown up with 10 high-card points. Adding either black-suit king to West's holding would have made it a full opening bid, so East was marked with both.
Other than dropping a singleton

was marked with both.

Other than dropping a singleton king of trumps offside, only one possible distribution would permit declarer to land the contract. East had to hold a doubleton king of spaces, so that the partscore could be made

with a throw in play.

Declarer should win the diamond shift in dummy, cash the ace of spades and ace-king of diamonds, then exit with a trump. In with the king of spades, East has a choice of leave actions—a club would allow king of spades, East has a choice or losing options—a club would allow declarer's queen to win and a red suit would permit declarer to dis-card a club from hand while ruffing on the table. Either way, declarer would not lose a club.

POSTPONED

Designer Hana Sadeq Beraudo announces the postponement of her fashion show originally scheduled for 6:30 tonight at Philadelphia Hotel until May 7, 1994.

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Michael Jordan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. basketball fans discovered there is life after Michael Jordan. It's just much less predictable.

Jordan's parting gift to the National Basketball Association (NBA) has been the most exciting title race in 15 years. A record 10 clubs with 50 or more victories are legitimate title threats in the playoff chase beginning Thursday. Jordan's Chicago Bulls were

overwhelming favourites after winning their third straight NBA crown last year, but his retirement last October robbed the league of a clear front-

Seattle had the league's best record at 63-19. New York and Houston both had 15-game win streaks while Atlanta won 14 in a row. Chicago, expected to struggle without Jordan, won 55 games, only two fewer than last vear.

> "People anticipated we were just going to pass away without Michael," Chicago's Scottie Pippen said. "Everybody anticipated Chicago would fall aside and the knicks would just take off. The Knicks had a great season. It's just other teams have had a great season

around them." Without Jordan's aerial moves, tall men in the middle became the NBA's centre of attention. San Antonio's David Robinson won the league scoring title, hitting an astounding 71 points in his final game to edge out Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal. Robinson became the first centre since Bob McAdoo in 1976 to lead NBA scorers, taking the throne Jordan owned for the

previous seven years. Orlando's O'Neal took Jordan's role as the league's top attraction and endorsement king. The Magic sold out 35 of 41 road games and O'Neal was popularised in several television commercials. O'Neal, second in points and rebounds, sparked the youthful Magic to their first playoff berth.

Seattle were among several clubs searching in vain for the respect given Jordan's title teams. "We ain't never going to get no respect so we don't worry about that," Seattle guard Gary Payton said. "It's fine.

We don't need the hype. When we win the championship, they're going to say, 'where did that team come from?" NBA scoring dropped to its

lowest level in 40 years as defence became vital for top teams. Only NBA scoring leaders Phoenix won with an year hopefuls.



Michael Jordan

offensive emphasis.' The Sonics stressed team play on offense and defence, producing six double-figure scorers and a pressuring defence. A trade with Indiana for Germany's Detlef Schrempf as the season began was crucial.

"Detlef was the final piece of the puzzle," Seattle coach George Karl said. "He brought just what we needed to complement Shawn's play under-neath. We feel good about our

New faces bolstered other hopefuls. San Antonio brought in Dennis Rodman from Detroit and he led NBA rebounders for a third straight year, pulling down 17 a game. Atlanta sent Veteran Dominique Wilkins to the Los Angeles Clippers for Danny Manning and won the Eastern Conference for the first time ever.

"Bringing Danny here has fired up a lot," Atlanta centre Kevin Willis said. "Nique was very important, but Danny has meant a lot to the team. The chemistry is very good."

Overseas players made their mark on the NBA, paced by Schrempf, Croatians Toni Kukoc of Chicago and Dino Radja of Boston, Australia's Luc Longley for Chicago, Dutchman Rik Smits of Indiana, Nigerian-born Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston and Denver's Dikembe Mutombo, the NBA blocked shots leader from Zaire. Detroit, Boston and the Los

Angeles Lakers, dominant in the 1980s, all finished out of the playoffs, ending post-season appearance streaks of 10. 14 and 17 years respectively.

Magic Johnson returned to coach the Lakers for their final 16 games, but was unhappy about selfish attitudes and vowed never to coach again. Other coaches fared better. Golden State's Don Nelson won his 800th game, New York's Pat Riley coached his 700th victory and journeyman Larry Brown revived Indiana. They and Karl led coach of the

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Iondan Basketball Federation (JBF) President Awwad Haddad Tuesday announced that the Arab Radio and Television (ART) Basketball Tournament would be postponed until further notice.

The announcement comes only a week before the tournament was scheduled to begin at the Sports Palace with 13 top Arab teams taking paπ.

At a press conference at JBF headquarters, Mr. Haddad noted that the tournament would not be cancelled and would probably take place in August.

The announcement comes as quite a surprise as the event was widely publicised and fans were anticipating an action-packed tournament that would have brought together a host of the best teams in the Arab World. The JBF president ex-

plained that the main reason for the surprise postponement was the unexpected enormous cost of live satellite television coverage.

"ART have opted to postpone their championship until the commencement of transmission of their satellite channel from Amman in July. That would greatly deduct the added cost of transmission," he said.

The championship which was to be televised all over the satellite channels was expected to cost ART over JD 120,000 as they had undertaken the complete sponsorship of the event, including travel, accommodation, and all expenses related to the tournament. However satellite transmission was not discussed until recently, and it turned out it would add another JD 140,000 to the expenses.

The JBF president, who heads the tournament's executive committee, said preparations were well on course for holding the first-of-itskind event, and all officials had put up a concerted effort to hold a successful tournament that would "very much enhance relations between various Arab federations and clubs and also serve Jordanian basketball and give a big

boost to organisers, referees. players and tans." The teams which had confirmed their participation were: A! Ahli and Al Zamalek as well as Arab clubs' champions Al Jazirch from Egypt, two teams from Bahrain including Al Manamah who are champions of the Gulf Cooperation Counoil. Lebanese league champions At Rivadi and cup winners Al Hikmeh, one team from each of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Tunisia in addition to the

Kingdom's top teams - Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi. During the tournament, Jordanian basketball superstar Murad Barakat was to officially retire from competinve basketball.

A special booklet was also

being prepared for the occasion citing Barakat's long basketball career during which he represented Jordan in over 300 matches for the national as well as military teams and led Al Orthodoxi during their undisputed domination of the basketball scene throughout the eighties before losing it to all time. nvals Al Ahli in 1990, 1992

Mr. Haddad explained that the JBF understood ART's decision although the postponement put the JBF in a very difficult position especially since many teams had confirmed their participation

"We even heard that competitions in Tunisia and Lebanon were recently reacheduled to allow their teams to take part in the ART tournament," he added.

Mr. Haddad emphasised

that the postponement was unfavourable, but expressed hope that future cooperation with ART would be fruitful "We are sure that ART will cooperate in sponsoring Jordanian sports, especially the national basketball

teams," he said. Mr. Haddad said that the JBF's budget had a deficit of over JD 100,000 that would hopefully be covered by

understanding sponsors
He cited JBF's, previous All-Star tournament which was sponsored by car dealers who later shield away after Jordan Television refused to air the matches when teams were to carry the names of

their sponsoring companies. **Graf bemoans life without Seles**

HAMBURG, Germany (AFP) - Steffi Graff bemoaned the lack of competition in women's tennis here Tuesday as she lost. iust 12 points in a 6-0, 6-0 destruction of Silke Frankl in the first round of the Citizen

Cup.

Graf said she was not concerned about playing on the anniversary of the Monica Seles stabbing here last year. before taking a sideswipe at her would-be challengers.

She said: "Despite the circumstances last year, once I went on the court I didn't really look back. I haven't really noticed any talk about it, except with the press.

"I'm trying to do my best" and work as hard as I can, and if I don't have the competition there's nothing I can do about it. I can just hope it will change in the future. Even though the beginning of this year looks very one-sided that can change very quickly." "But I'm surprised there's not mere competition, I expected quite a few other players to show more improvement from a couple of years ago."

The German was watched by a handful of international journalists but she made sure the match against her compatriot was entirely free of any drama, either on court or off it. Graf's win took a mere 35

minutes, clinching the final three games without a point. Still without former world number one Seles to test her, she has only dropped one set this year, to Natalia Zvereva in the Lipton final last month, and has been defeated only

final here to Arantxa Sanchez. The Spaniard, seeded second against Bulgarian qualifier Elena Wagner, survived a

2hr 40min, challenge before

once since losing last year's.



Steffi Graf scraping through 4-6, 6-3, 7-6,

Sanchez Vicario had to have treatment to a knee injury during the first set and blamed the injury for her poor show. "She dida't have anything to

lose and played a very good match. But on my side, my knee bothered me a lot and I was worried before the match whether I could play.

Morocco look set for early exit this time around

By Mimoun Dark

Reuters RABAT - If FIFA delegates

had voted differently in 1988 the world's elite players could now be preparing for the World Cup finals in Morocco rather than in the United The north African kingdom

were the only serious contenders to the U.S. when the vote was taken six years ago to decide the host nation for the 1994 finals.

The United States collected 10 votes, Morocco seven and Brazil just two.

Although the United States could not be matched in terms of communications, facilities and marketing opportunities, they were a poor second to the Moroccans in their passion for the game. Unfortunately for Morocco,

that was not enough to enable on her way to two gold medals in the 1970s but said she had no them to clinch the vote needed to stage the event.

Morocco realistically lacks the infrastructure to stage an In an interview with Reuevent as huge as the World ters, Fuchs, the 1972 and 1976 Olympic champion who also

Cup and few Moroccans ever thought they really would host pionship titles in 1974 and 1978, said she had taken the the tournament. What they are far more upset about is losing to West Germany in the dying seconds of their second round clash in Monterrey in Mexico in 1986

when they were beaten 1-0 by "It was a drug to regenerate my body because of the hard training I had in winter, Fuchs said. "But it was not a an 89th minute Lothar Matth-Whether Morocco will have drug that manipulated my pera chance to get over that disformances. I knew I was doing appointment this summer is something that was not allowed...but I was convinced debatable.

CAR FOR SALE.

for one week.

They were drawn in a tough first round group along with Belgium, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia and could well struggle to make the second

tound this time. When the draw was announced a local daily headlined its story from Las Vegas: 'Groan.'

Morocco are hoping to advance by being one of the four best third-placed finishers, scratching out a draw with European sides and then beating the Saudis by as big a margin as possible.

Coincidentally Morocco and Saudi Arabia have already met each other in international competition in the United States. In 1984 Morocco beat the Saudi 1-0 in the first round of the Los Angeles Olympics soccer competition at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, the venue for this summer's final.

This will be Morocco's third appearance in the World Cup following their debut in Mexico in 1970 and their creditable showing back in Mexico 16 years later when they drew with Poland and England before beating Portugal 3-1 to top their first round group. But their squad this year

looks like being the weakest to represent the country so far. Coach Abdella "Blinda" Ajri has been rebuilding the side since he took over from Abdelhalek Louzani following the completion of the qualifying competition, and unlike Louzani, is keen to use as many players now based in

Europe as he can.

But there are no players as good as 1986 heroes like strikers Aziz Bouderbala, Merry Krimou and Mustapha Haddaoui, or keeper Baddou Zaki. who all went professional in France, Spain or Portugal.

The general feeling in African circles is that if Zambia had not lost their first-choice squad in an air crash April 28, 1993, they would have qualified for the fiants in place of Morocco, but in the event, Morocco clinched the place with a 1-0 home win over Zambia in their final qualifier

last October. And the Moroccan results in their training matches so far tends to bear out that Morocco

is a weak side. They were beaten 1-0 in France in December by both first division Nantes and second division Nancy, and were held to 1-1 draws by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in the UAE tournament in January.

On March 23 they had what local sports writers called an "unconvincing" 2-1 away win in Luxembourg and have generally failed to impress. They lost again Wednesday when Argentina beat them 3-1 in Argentina, although the Moroceans did trouble the South Americans with some dangerous fast counter-attacks play.

The squad will spend the month of May in France play-

ing against minor league clubs to create "harmony among the players" according to the

His main problem is coordinating teamwork between professionals with teams in Europe who it is hoped will stiffen the backbone of the other members of the selection with less international experi-

Blinda will have to knit his home-based players in with a dozen players from European clubs like Mustapha Hajji (Nancy). Mohamed Chaouch (Nice). Ismael Triki (Chateauroux). Mustapha Haddou (Angers), Aziz Quali (Bastia), Abdallah Nacer (Bruges), Rachid Azzouzi Duisburg), and Hassan Nudir

Farense i. Players from at home and abroad have barely played together and Blinda seems in a quandary over who to select and is tight-lipped about his ກົກລາ 22

But there are a few certainties. Among them are the spectacular and athletic keeper Khalil Azmi of the Casablanca Raja Club, left-footed striker Rachid Daoudi of Wydad, a specialist in accurate free kicks and corners, and the cool-headed defender Nourredine Naybet, who plays with

Nantes. Also sure to be in New York and Orlando is the talented Nancy striker Mustapha Hajji, who left Morocco as a young child, but decided to play for his homeland rather than France.

The Moroccans are hoping that the hot and humid climate will favour them, particularly in Florida which is on the same latitude as Moroeco. If that does not help they always have "baraka", the local word for good luck.

Local sports commentators say they will need a lot of baraka when they meet Bel-gium June 7, Saudi Arabia June 23 and the Dutch June 29, because as one wrote "We don't have anyone really good at scoring goals."

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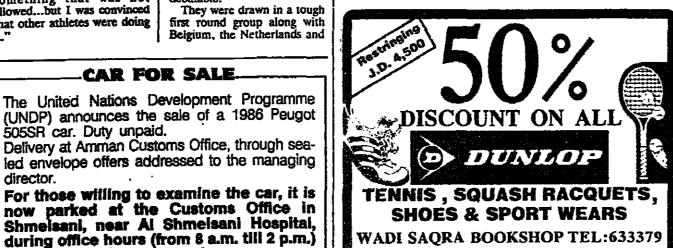
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Israel, PLO report deal delayed further

CAIRO (Agencies) - The chief delegates to Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiations conceded Tuesday that negotiations will drag into next week, further delaying the start of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

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The judgments by Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak and the PLO's Nabil Shaath reversed earlier optimism about a signing early next week of an agreement on starting limited Palestinian self-rule in the two areas.

There is a long list of issues that still need answers. I don't think it will end this week, Gen. Shahak told reporters. "If we don't finish, we will come here next week."

Still, both Dr. Shaath and Gen. Shahak insisted an agreement was nearly at hand.

Gen. Shahak said negotiators were concluding talks on two major obstacles, security and legal jurisdiction in the self-rule zones. Dr. Shaath said he could not discuss a third dispute on freeing Palestinian prisoners because "we are making progress."

The issues still tying up agreement are:

 Crossing points for Jewish settlers going from Gaza to Israel and the passage of Palestinians through Israeli territory on the 100 kilometres between Gaza and Jericho. — Whether Israel or Palesti-

nians will have legal jurisdiction over Israelis and foreigners who are accused of crimes in the self-rule zones.

 Release of Palestinian prisoners beyond 5,000 already agreed on. The PLO wants freedom for all; Israel is refusing to release members of Hamas, which opposes the peace talks, or those who committed violent crimes.

Dr. Shaath said both sides were doing their best "to finish as soon as possible."

Israel and the PLO would continue discussion of the outstanding points immediately after an accord had been signed, Dr. Shaath said. Dт. Shaath said: "We may

delay these (points) beyond the signature day, but that will not leave anything important." He said last week negotiators had agreed a final accord would be ready for signing between May 2 and 4.

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Demon-strations broke out in Hebron

Tuesday after soldiers killed a

Palestinian they said tried to

stab a trooper. Locals said the

Resistance Movement, Hamas

claimed responsibility for kill-

ing an Israeli soldier and offi-

cials said two Israeli Arabs

were among 27 Palestinians

arrested overnight for a suicide bombing of a bus two weeks

Police identified the two

Arabs as Atef Kabaha, 46, and

Majed Kabaha, 48, from the

Arab village of Barta that

straddles the West Bank and

Atef is suspected of taking

the assailant to the northern

town of Hadera on April 13,

Also Tuesday, the Islamic

shooting was uprovoked.

principles signed in September Israel was due to complete a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho by April 13.

Gen. Shahak said Israel and the PLO were "not deeply divided over fundamental questions, but there are a huge number of points which need to be resolved, and some risk posing problems."

Earlier he stressed that security and the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction had to be settled before an accord was signed. An agreement on jurisdiction was close, he added. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also said security mat-ters could not be left until

"We do not have to settle all the outstanding differences... on the other hand it is impossible to put off until later questions relating to security," he told Israeli Radio from Mos-

Among questions which could be delayed where the definition of an "international presence" in Gaza and Jericho as is called for under the dec-

laration of principles. "It would be a shame to lose time over that," Mr. Rabin said, adding that certain economic problems would also be left out for the time being.

Dr. Shaath said he hoped U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming visit to Cairo would "help to reduce the list of points" on which Israel and the PLO were still divided.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is due to hold talks with Mr. Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Thursday. Egyptian Foreign Minister

Amr Musa said a joint meeting between Mr. Christopher, Mr. Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was possible, but nothing has been decided yet."

Mr. Peres said Monday the two sides must finalise an accord by the end of this week. The negotiations must not go on forever. We must wrap them up at the end of this week and achieve a settlement." he

However, Dr. Shaath echoed Gen. Shahak's caution Tuesday regarding the progress of the negotiations, noting '

Troops kill one in Hebron;

2 Israeli Arabs held in blast

where he set off the bomb that killed five Israelis. Majed is

suspected of conspiracy, said police spokesman Eric Bar-

The alleged involvement of

Israeli Arabs raised an outcry,

causing Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres to chide reporters

for making ethnic origins an

"When someone is guilty,

just one person is guilty, let's not blame all Arabs," he said.

In Hebron, seven people were injured when soldiers

opened fire to disperse demon-

strations that erupted after Kamel Hussein Unidad, 35, a

shoemaker from Dahariya vil-

lage south of Hebron, was shot

Witnesses said three soldiers stopped Uridad at a roadblock

ordered him out of his car then

have to be submitted to the Israeli and PLO leaders before being given the finishing

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin are expected to finalise agreement on certain key points, including the size of the autonomous Jericho area.

Mr. Arafat handed Russian Ambassador to Tunis Boris Shiburin a message addressed to President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday on the progress of the autonomy negotiations and the Middle East peace process.

Last week Mr. Arafat met

Mr. Yeltsin in Moscow and reportedly urged him to put pressure on Mr. Rabin to speed up implementation of the declaration of principles.
A senior PLO official said

meanwhile elections for a Palestinian authority in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho, which are scheduled for July 13, are unlikely to be held before mid-October.
Saeb Erakat, head of the

Palestinian election committee, said delays in implementing the Sept. 13 autonomy accord had set back election plans. "We will do our homework

regardless," Dr. Erakat told AFP in his office at the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem. "We know we can't hold elections without having the

negotiations finalised.
"But, we will prepare ourselves and show the world we are ready, regardless, ready for elections no later than Oct.

He said preparations had be-gun for elections to a legisla-tive council of 100 members. About 80 members of an executive Palestinian National Authority would also be elected, with the rest

appointed by Mr. Arafat. The European Union, along with Japan, Canada, the United States, Russia and the Scandinavian countries will monitor the campaign and vot-

Europe is also training some 6.000 Palestinian administrators for the elections. An initial group of 30 Palestinians are to go to Germany for training early next month.

"We are finalising now to present the leadership with our

(Continued on page 3)

"It was an execution, a dé-

liberate shooting without pro-

vocation," said Fayzeh Ismail

Kafisheh, a school teacher who

saw the incident from her bal-

A military statement said

that soldiers spotted a Palesti-

nian coming towards one sol-dier with a knife and opened

fire, seriously wounding the Arab who died of his injuries.

Hebron is still smoldering from the Feb. 25 mosque mas-

nians as they knelt in prayer.

activities in Gaza and Jericho

because it will give them a

basis for their political argument that goes: the areas you

have given us are being run in

relative quiet and now we want

Gen. Barak also said that he

would not be surprised if

Hamas eventually cooperated

with a PLO-led Palestinian autonomy, Israeli army radio

Gen. Barak reportedly estimated that it would take the

army two weeks to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho once an

agreement was reached, in

contrast to previous estimates that said withdrawal could take

place within 24 hours. U.S. Ambassador Edward

Djerjian told American fun-

draisers Tuesday that in order for peace to be achieved in the

Middle East, negotiations had to advance on all fronts in

order to prevail over extremist

"It is quite frankly a race

against time as to which

tendency will ultimately pre-

to expand these areas'.'

reported.

violence.

South African blacks vote — 'free at last' JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Defying bombs and bureaucratic bungling, black South Africans voted for the Other voters go to the polls on Wednesday and Thursday after the birth, at midnight first time on Tuesday in a resounding declaration that (2200 GMT) on Tuesday, of the new nation. they were free at last. The old, the maimed, the The old South African flag, announced. symbol of oppression to mil-lions was to be lowered in sick, the jailed and the exiled strode and shuffled - some major cities then and a new were carried - to polling staconstitution to take effect. tions across the country and Voters turned out with reabroad for the first "special day" of the three-day, all-race

An elderly man enters a polling station as others

From Soweto to New Zea-

land, Uitenhage to the United

States, newly-enfranchised

blacks joined whites in raising

a democracy out of the ashes of

apartheid, the unique form of

racial segregation that cli-

maxed three centuries of white

The feelings of thousands of

blacks queueing from dawn in dusty townships in the early-

morning chill and then in the

hot sun was summed up by one

beaming pensioner in battle-scarred Katlehong east of

"I think my dignity has been restored," said Magdalene

Tuesday was a special voting

day for the old, the sick, pris-

oners convicted of all but ma-

jor crimes and South Africans

abroad, many of them refugees

from apartheid. A total of 22.7

million people are eligible to

vote, 18 million of them

Polling began hesitantly in

many areas as officials unfamil-

iar with mass voting struggled

with their papers and other

paraphernalia. Thousands

waited patiently for hours after

scheduled opening time before

ballot boxes were ready for

slips listing 27 parties for pro-vincial and national legisla-

domination.

Johannesburg:

Kutoane, 65.

markable enthusiasm on Tuesday to put their crosses over the grave of apartheid.

A spate of bombings, blamed on white extremists making a last stand against black rule, killed 21 people and wounded 162 since Sunday two in an attack on a black war in the capital Pretoria barely 10

hours before the polls opened. Reformist President F.W. de Klerk, who took his 89-yearold mother Corrie to vote in Pretoria, told reporters he was

"It was my policy that there should come an end to minority rule" said the man who freed Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 and began dismantling apartheid — the basic policy plank of his national party since 1948. Mr. Mandela, who spent 27

of his 75 years in prison for fighting apartheid and stands on the verge of power, joined Mr. De Klerk in condemning what the president called "the se to the right ' "We will not let a handful of

killers steal our democracy, Mandela told reporters. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace prize winner

like Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk, said he was "walking on clouds ... like falling in love." The bombings, he said, were like "the last kicks of a dying

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has asked that the election be extended by a day because of "massive glitches"
Tuesday on the first day of
voting, his chief negotiator

Takoza, a black township outside Johannesburg

Joe Mathews told a press conference that Mr. Buthelezi. president of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), had made a formal request to Judge Johann Kriegler that voting end on Friday instead of Thursday, Mr. Kriegler is head of the election organisers, the Independent Electoral Com-

mission (IEC).

But IEC officials had indicated they had no powers to extend the vote, Mr. Mathews said, who led talks about bringing the Zulu nationalists into the poll.

Mr. Mathews said that at voting stations across the country, but particularly in the IFP's power base of Kwazulu-Natal, ballot papers had arrived without the stickers that were supposed to be attached to ballot papers to add the name of the IFP, which agreed to join the poll only a week

ago.
"There have been massive glitches in the administration of the election," Mr. Mathews Apart from a lack of stick-

ers, he added, other problems experienced were a failure of electoral officers to turn up at olling stations, a shortage of IEC monitors, youths helping elderly people to fill in their ballots and members of the IFP's archrival, the African National Congress (ANC), acting as monitors.
"We are very disturbed that

despite assurances that IFP stickers would be sent to all voting stations, this was not done," Mr. Mathews said.

253 killed in Taiwanese plane crash in Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — At least 253 people died when a China Airlines Airbus A-300 with 271 people on board crashed and exploded into flames while landing Tuesday evening at Nagoya airport in central Japan, officials said. Transport Ministry officials

corrected the number of people on board from 272 to 271, saying that they had counted a crew member twice.

The officials said eight people were still listed as missing some seven hours after the crash while 10 people had been treated at hospitals after they were rescued from the debris.

The plane, on a flight from Taipei to Nagoya, had 158 Japanese passengers and 99 foreign passengers, including two infants, as well as 14 crew members. A Transport Ministry official

said that minutes before the crash, pilot Wang Lo-Chi radioed that he would abandon his landing attempt and try again. The pilot did not give a reason. In his last transmission, he said only "going

The plane, flying in from

Taipei, Taiwan, crashed several hundred metres to the right of the runway. Had it gane another 200 metres straight ahead, it would have hit a housing area.

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It ended up just short of several hangars of an air selfdefence forces base at the airport, and a quick response by airmen at the base was credited with saving some lives.
A Transport Ministry official

said the fire was put out about 40 minutes after the crash. Hours later, some 3,000 police, firemen and troops were gingerly lifting wreckage with cranes and by hand in the search for the final victims.

The crash was the second worst in Japanese aviation history. The worst single-plane accident in any country occurred Aug. 12, 1985, when a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 crashed into a mountain on a domestic flight, killing 520

people.

The plane, Flight 140, was carrying 256 passengers including two infants, and 15 crew members when it crashed at

(Continued on page 3).

asserted talks with Palestinians

must continue on a one-on-one

need for a Madrid two," Mr.

Rabin said at a news confer-

between us and on the part of

the United States to leave the

negotiations to be done be-

tween us and representatives of

the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) in Cairo, talking directly," Mr. Rabin

Mr. Rabin said he and Rus-

sian officials, including Presi-

dent Yeltsin, had discussed no

details on proposals for over-

"I do not believe there is any

"There is an understanding

Israel cautious on Russian role ence on the Middle East and

MOSCOW (Agencies) -Israel's visiting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared politely unconvinced about Russia's hopes of a bigger role in the Middle East peace process after meetings on Tuesday with the president and foreign and defence ministers.

But Mr. Rabin, who was due later on Tuesday to leave Moscow after an evening news conference, said Israel was keen to broaden bilateral ties.

"In all my negotiations, I understood that Russia has an interest in the future in continuing the work of establishing peace and security in the Middle East," Mr. Rabin said after his final meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei

"Perhaps this is a bit different from what happened with the Soviet Union in the past."

During the cold war, the Arab cause against Israel. But the collapse of communism, and the growth of a large Russian-speaking community in Israel, have shaken up this traditional alignment.

Israel and Moscow reestab-

hished diplomatic relations in October 1991 which had been broken off in 1967. Moscow, a co-sponsor with

Washington of the peace process, has until this year taken a back seat. But, as part of a general shaking-off of post-Soviet inertia in foreign policy, it is now keen to be seen doing more in the Middle East. On Tuesday, Mr. Rabin rejected a Russian plan for a second international confer-

coming remaining obstacles in an accord on limited Palestinian self-rule in the Israelioccupied territories. But he said they had discussed the current status of negotiations as well as the possibil

ity of fresh talks with Syria. Asked about Russian arms sales to Syria, Mr. Rabin stated that "we do not oppose any relations between Russia and the other Arab countries."

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"The question is to what extent the relations are for bilateral purposes and are encouraging the agreed goal of peace and stability in the region," he said.

Mr. Kozyrev said relations between the two countries were "on the rise." Mr. Rabin and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Monday signed agreements on dual taxation, agricultural coopera-

that ignites civil war, and I

don't expect fighting in Yemen

as this will lead to its frag-

mentation in more than two

states," Mr. Basendwa said. 'As long as everybody is aware

of this, there is no ground for fear of civil war."

Mr. Basendwa is a member of Mr. Saleh's General Peo-

ple's Congress (GPC), whose

rival Yemen Socialist Party

(YSP) is led by Mr. Beidh. Mr. Basendwa blamed the

crisis on "hawks within the

YSP who advocate secession.

Serbs continue pullout amid U.N. optimism

sacre when a Jewish settler ZAGREB (Agencies) — The United Nations said Tuesday shot dead more than 30 Palestithat the Bosnian Serbs were Israel's army chief predicted making progress in withdrawon Tuesday the Palestine Liing their heavy weapons from beration Organisation (PLO) around the Muslim enclave of would put pressure on Hamas Gorazde as a North Atlantic to curb guerrilla attacks in Treaty Organisation (NATO) Palestinian self-rule areas, a deadline approached.
"Generally we are satisfied

participant at a parliamentary briefing said.
"I believe they (the PLO) with the progress that is taking place on the ground," United will have an incentive in fact to Nations Protection Force (UN-PROFOR) spokesman Michael Williams said ahead of prove that in the areas that are under their authority terrorism will go down," Lieutenantthe 0001 GMT Wednesday General Ehud Barak was deadline. quoted as saying.
"They will impose pressure
on Hamas to limit (guerrilla)

Under the NATO ultimatum issued on Friday, Serb forces must pull all their heavy weaponry outside a 20kilometre zone around the eastern Bosnian town by the

In Washington, White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said the Serbs were clearly on track for complying with the ultimatum.

"They're clearly in the process of complying, but exactly where they are I don't know, she said, adding: "The ultima-turn still stands." In Brussels, NATO and

U.N. commanders for Bosnia-Herzegovina gave a cautiously Serb withdrawal. NATO issued the new threat

after the Bosnian Serbs defied repeated calls to stop attacking Gorazde, including appeals from their Russian allies.

U.S. warplanes operating under NATO command

Gorazde earlier this month, but the raids did little other than infuriate the Serbs and prompt them to detain U.N. personnel and break off contact with the United Nations.

As the Serb offensive on Gorazde continued, NATO agreed to extend to Gorazde and four other U.N.-declared safe havens the air-strike threat that brought relative peace to Sarajevo in February under a similar weaponswithdrawal ultimatum to the

General Bernard de Lap-resle and Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, commander of U.N. forces in ex-Yugoslavia

(Continued on page 3)



A Bosnian Serb convoy pulling heavy artiflery passes through the town of Zupcici, two ilometres southeast of Gorazde, on Tuesday as

it withdraws from the U.N. security zone (AFP

No civil war or partition in Yemen — Basendwa

SANAA (R) - Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Basendwa said on Tuesday his country's political crisis would likely drag on but ruled out civil war and partition. "The crisis is expected to

continue for some time. But I do not expect secession," Mr. Basendwa told Reuters in an Differences between Presi-

dent Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh are threatening Yemen's four-year-old unity and paralysing the government.

Mr. Saleh who ruled conservative North Yemen and

Mr. Beidh, leader of the Marxist South Yemen, merged the two parts in May 1990, but differences that emerged in August raised fears of redivi-Secession will be the fuse

power sharing basis until elections in April 1993, which

The majority of the party is pro-unity and the solution must come from the YSP which sparked the crisis." The YSP ruled united Yemen with the GPC on \$0.50

(Continued on page 3)

Sabri Farah and family Extends their sincere condolences to HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN,

the Hashemite Family, and all Jordanians for the passing away yesterday of Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Zein Al Sharaf



Israeli soldiers on Tuesday arrest a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

